

Minutes of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee  
June 16, 2004  
Basement Conference Room, J.R. Williams Office Building  
Boise, Idaho

Co-chair Senator Shawn Keough called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Attending the meeting were Senators Bert Marley and Marti Calabretta, and Representatives Margaret Henbest, Maxine Bell, and Debbie Field. Representative Donna Boe joined the meeting in progress. Also present were staff members Rakesh Mohan, Director, and Margaret Campbell, Administrative Assistant, and all other OPE staff.

Co-chair Keough welcomed those in attendance, including President Pro Tem Robert Geddes and Representative Steve Smylie. Mr. Mohan introduced Rachel Johnstone, who recently joined the staff as a performance evaluator. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Idaho and will soon receive her Ph.D. from Oxford University.

**FOLLOW-UP REVIEW: *TIMELINESS AND FUNDING OF AIR QUALITY PERMITTING PROGRAMS***

Mr. Ned Parrish, Principal Performance Evaluator, presented an update of the Department of Environmental Quality's implementation of report recommendations. Co-chair Keough called on Mr. Marty Bauer, Air Quality Division Administrator, to address committee questions about department efforts to improve the balance between permit fees and program expenditures.

The committee discussed the need of another follow-up review. Senator Calabretta noted that the department had made progress since 2001. Representative Field said she applauded the department's efforts, and recommended JLOC continue to monitor its progress. Representative Henbest questioned whether the review was the best use of staff time.

**Representative Field moved to conduct a follow-up review in one year, indicating that Legislative Leadership had been very interested in the original evaluation request. Representative Bell seconded the motion, and it passed by majority voice vote. Senator Marley and Representative Henbest were recorded as voting no.**

*After the vote was taken, Representative Boe joined the meeting via phone conference.*

**FOLLOW-UP REVIEW: *IDAHO CHILD CARE PROGRAM***

Ms. A.J. Burns, Senior Performance Evaluator, presented an update of the Department of Health and Welfare's implementation of report recommendations. Representative Boe requested that staff report which Idaho government entities have stricter child-to-staff ratios than the state requires and provide the information in another follow-up review.

**Senator Marley moved to conduct a follow-up review in one year. Representative Bell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously by voice vote.**

**FOLLOW-UP REVIEW: IDAHO'S MEDICAID PROGRAM**

Mr. Paul Headlee, Senior Performance Evaluator, presented a summary of the Department of Health and Welfare's implementation of report recommendations. Representative Henbest referred to a presentation slide indicating Medicaid costs increased with the 1999 addition of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). She said the cost to insure children was not generally high, and asked whether the addition of long-term care also impacted costs.

Co-chair Keough called on Mr. David Rogers, Division of Medicaid Administrator, to address the Committee. Mr. Rogers said CHIP had increased the cost of Medicaid, but the waiver program for the elderly and rising pharmaceutical costs had also increased costs. He responded to Committee questions by saying costs would decrease slightly if CHIP were taken out of the program. If the program for the elderly were taken out, costs would decline much more.

**The Committee decided to close follow-up work on the report.**

**EVALUATION UPDATE: HEALTH AND WELFARE CASELOAD MANAGEMENT**

Ms. Brook Smith, Performance Evaluator, presented the proposed scope for an evaluation of child welfare caseload management. In response to Committee requests to include the food stamp program and CHIP in the scope, Co-chair Keough said the Joint Finance Appropriations Committee had appointed a subcommittee to look at issues raised by a recently released Legislative Audits report. She recommended waiting for the release of the findings before adding programs to the scope.

**Representative Field moved to approve the scope for caseload management.  
Representative Bell seconded the motion.**

Representative Henbest asked whether the caseload evaluation could be applied across the board to other caseload counts. Mr. Mohan said that caseload counts sounded simple, but were quite complex and differed from program to program. He suggested conducting caseload evaluations on a program by program basis as the Legislature found helpful.

**The motion passed unanimously by voice vote to approve the scope for caseload management.**

**EVALUATION UPDATE: PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING**

Mr. Chris Shoop, Senior Performance Evaluator, presented the proposed scope for an evaluation of agency performance measurement and reporting.

**Representative Henbest moved to approve the scope for performance measurements.  
Senator Marley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously by voice vote.**

**EVALUATION UPDATE: *PUBLIC EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES***

Mr. Paul Headlee presented the proposed scope for an evaluation of technology initiatives in public education. Senator Calabretta said she would like additional focus on the availability of computers to students, whether computers were incorporated into the curriculum, and whether funding was directed toward curriculum integration. Senator Marley said he agreed and wanted the scope to focus on student learning as well as administrative use. Mr. Headlee said the scope included these concerns.

**Representative Field moved to approve the scope for public education technology initiatives. Representative Henbest seconded the motion.**

In response to Committee requests, Co-chair Keough said the scope would inherently address how ISIMS and the No Child Left Behind Act affected the technology budget.

**The motion passed unanimously by voice vote to approve the scope for technology initiatives.**

**REPORT OF FOLLOW-UP PLANS: *PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR LICENSING FUNCTION***

Co-chair Keough called on Mr. David Bennion, Chair of the Public Works Contractor Licensing Board, to speak to the Committee. Mr. Bennion discussed the unresolved report recommendations as outlined in his letter to the Committee (included in the meeting notebook), and the board's progress to implement.

Co-chair Keough called on Mr. Dave Munroe, Division Administrator, to address the Committee. Mr. Munroe said he was working towards the implementation of a complaint resolution protocol (handout provided). Co-chair Keough thanked the board and division for their work.

**NEW REQUESTS FOR EVALUATION AND OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Mohan said he had two new evaluation requests for the Committee's consideration.

*Meridian School District Budget*

The first request was for an evaluation of the Meridian School District budget. However, on June 9 a taskforce was created in a meeting with members of House leadership, interested legislators, and the school district. Mr. Mohan said the Speaker requested that JLOC postpone considering an evaluation until after the taskforce released their findings.

The Committee discussed the request and agreed that examining the funding formula would be beneficial. They asked questions of jurisdiction and precedence in evaluating individual school districts. Mr. Mohan said that any entity receiving state funds was within JLOC purview. He would approach each evaluation sensitively and conduct work within professional guidelines. In

addition to his effort to be responsive to the Legislature, Mr. Mohan said he strives to keep evaluation scopes general enough to serve a wider audience and benefit the state as a whole.

Representative Field said many problems could be resolved with open communication. The Legislature had increased fiscal year 2005 monies to the district, so when the district sent a notification letter to their teachers about possibly reducing salaries, the information in the letter did not add up. She said she was glad the district was communicating their concerns. Mr. Mohan added that the district had discussed their issues in the June meeting, and although every issue had been an ongoing concern, those concerns had not been previously communicated to the Legislature.

Senator Marley said he was pleased with the direction of the discussion. He said he liked the idea to look at districts across the board, and did not think JLOC should evaluate a specific school district. However, the request had brought attention to issues that need consideration.

*Department of Correction Data and Impact of Substance Abuse Programs*

Mr. Mohan said the second request came from Legislative Council at their May 27 meeting. Council wanted to know the availability and quality of data for prison population management and programming at the Department of Correction. Also, if data was determined available, they wanted to know the impact of the department's substance abuse program on recidivism. Council requested the information be provided at their meeting on November 5.

Mr. Mohan said he did not have enough resources to add another evaluation at this time. However, he could slightly reduce the scope of the public education technology initiatives project to make some resources available. Mr. Paul Headlee reviewed the technology scope and proposed deletions.

Representative Field asked whether Legislative Council was aware of the office's full workload and timelines for on-going projects. She suggested the co-chairs send a letter to the Council explaining the resource dilemma and offer to begin research in February. Representative Bell said she thought much of the information could be obtained from other offices. She said she hated to see the technology scope adjusted and watered down. Senator Calabretta complimented Legislative Council for raising questions about department programs versus adding more beds. Representative Field said she was pleased the Council had turned to JLOC for assistance.

**The Committee decided the co-chairs would send Council a letter explaining the request would need to be postponed until resources became available.**

**Representative Bell moved to adjourn.**

*The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.*