

Minutes of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee
January 12, 2006
East Conference Room, JR Williams Office Building
Boise, Idaho

Co-chair Representative Margaret Henbest called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Attending the meeting were Senators Kate Kelly and Shawn Keough, and Representatives Maxine Bell, Debbie Field, and Donna Boe. Senators John Andreason and Bert Marley arrived later. Also present were Rakesh Mohan, Director, and OPE staff.

Co-chair Henbest acknowledged the attendance of Representatives Jaquet and Pence. She welcomed all others in attendance, including:

Division of Financial Management: Randy Tilley, Sara Nye
Legislative Services Office: Ray Ineck, Jason Hancock
Office of the State Board of Education: Dwight Johnson, Interim Executive Director
Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind: Harvey Lyter, Interim Superintendent
Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Wes Maynard, Executive Director
Department of Education: Marilyn Howard, Superintendent
Department of Correction: Thomas Beauclair, Director
Department of Health and Welfare: Karl Kurtz, Director
Department of Juvenile Corrections: Brent Reinke, Director
Judicial Branch: Patty Tobias, Administrative Director
Idaho State Police: Colonel Dan Charboneau, Director
Commission of the Blind and Visually Impaired: Angela Roan, Administrator

MINUTES

Senator Keough moved to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2005, meeting. Senator Kelly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by voice vote.

OFFICE BUSINESS

Mr. Mohan discussed the Legislative Council's request to evaluate the debt burden of higher education students. The study would compare Idaho to other states and talk to experts in the field. He reviewed the number of staff needed and the cost and timeline of the study.

Mr. Mohan discussed the projected workload of the office and said there were seven to eight follow-up reports, a report on lessons learned on the Idaho Student Management Information System (ISIMS) at the Department of Education, and topic selection of new evaluation requests. Co-chair Henbest proposed the committee discuss the office workload at a future meeting. Representative Bell requested that staff provide an initial review of available data sets from universities to gain an understanding of the extent of information, and present it when the new evaluation topics are considered.

Mr. Mohan discussed the ongoing evaluation of management in the Department of Health and Welfare, and said the office had surveyed over 2,600 staff and supervisors, and 159 middle managers. The response rate for staff and supervisors was 75 percent, and 91 percent for middle managers. Representative Field said it was important that employees know they have a say.

REPORT: STATE SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT EFFORTS

Chris Shoop and AJ Burns, Senior Performance Evaluators, and Rachel Johnstone, Performance Evaluator, provided a summary of the report.

Representative Field asked whether the state needed another commission, as recommended in the report. Senator Keough asked about the history of the past commission and existing statutes, and said the state may not have to construct a new system, but rather amend the existing statute. Senator Andreason said the drug problem was the biggest problem facing Idaho and an independent commission should exist to address it.

Representative Boe asked whether other states required providers working in prisons and juvenile facilities to be licensed. Ms. Johnstone said five of Idaho's neighboring states required professional licensing to practice substance abuse treatment in any setting (public or private), and Oregon required licensing to practice in all public settings.

Co-chair Henbest said she thought Idaho had two needs: improve the licensure of providers through Health and Welfare, and establish an independent commission for substance abuse. She asked whether personnel positions could be moved into the commission from other areas.

Senator Andreason asked if each of the agency directors could express their views on the value of forming an independent commission. Co-chair Henbest called on Ken Diebert, FACS Administrator at the Department of Health and Welfare. Mr. Diebert said he was not opposed to a commission, but the scope and responsibilities would need careful consideration. He said that philosophically the department endorsed it. In response to a question from Representative Bell, Mr. Diebert said that significant changes in data management had been made in response to the report's recommendations.

Co-chair Henbest called on Mr. Thomas Beauclair, Director, Department of Correction, to address Senator Andreason's question. Mr. Beauclair said he supported an independent commission and indicated that it could be economically implemented. Responding to Representative Field's questions of whether he worked with the Board of Health and Welfare, Mr. Beauclair said that while he had been unaware there was a Board of Health and Welfare, cooperation with the director of the Department of Health and Welfare had been very good.

Co-chair Henbest called on Mr. Brent Reinke, Director, Department of Juvenile Corrections, to address the committee. Mr. Reinke said in his experience, there had been a serious need for a commission for the last twelve years. He said the Department of Juvenile Corrections would work to ensure the implantation of any course decided by the Legislature.

Co-chair Henbest called on Patty Tobias, Administrative Director, Judicial Branch. Ms. Tobias said the Supreme Court worked with many agencies, and she felt that any effort to promote coordination among the agencies was important and beneficial.

Co-chair Henbest called on Colonel Dan Charboneau, Director, Idaho State Police, to address the committee. Colonel Charboneau said he was a strong supporter of any coordinating committee, and suggested a coordinating committee could develop a strategic plan to address concerns and establish agency responsibilities.

Representative Kelly suggested waiting for a decision on committee action until the release of the report on management in the Department of Health and Welfare. Senator Keough suggested hearing the department's progress in implementing recommendations from the report on substance abuse treatment efforts at a JLOC meeting later in the session.

Senator Keough moved to have the Department of Health and Welfare report in February on the status of the recommendations and have the Board of Health and Welfare or the board's representative present at the JLOC meeting when the report from the department is reviewed; and that this committee or a subcommittee of this committee meet to discuss further the role of the proposed independent commission. Representative Field added to Senator Keough's motion to provide the chair of the Board of Health and Welfare a copy of the report with a letter from the co-chairs. Representative Bell seconded the combined motion and it passed unanimously by voice vote

REPORT ON COMPARISON OF OPE AND BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS: *IDAHO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND*

Co-chair Henbest thanked June Flannery of Network Interpreting Service for interpreting the meeting in sign language.

Mr. Paul Headlee, Senior Performance Evaluator, provided a comparison of recommendations from the OPE report and the Board of Education report on the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind.

In response to Senator Keough's question of who would develop the priority recommendation plan, Mr. Headlee said the school and the Board of Education would undertake that task. Representative Bell asked if the board had examined the same statutes addressed by OPE. Mr. Headlee said that both reports looked at authorization for outreach and eligibility criteria in statutes and both determined that updates were needed.

Co-chair Henbest asked Dwight Johnson, Director, Office of the State Board of Education, if the board could implement the recommendations of the subcommittee. Mr. Johnson said the board had not yet approved the subcommittee report, but the recommendations of the board's and OPE's reports will compliment each other. Mr. Johnson also stated that it would be best to make statutory changes after the service model was decided. He said that while they were waiting for a decision on the service model, the statutory language concerning outreach services could move

forward. Co-chair Henbest said she thought student eligibility was a key issue and should be examined on a case-by-case basis.

Senator Marley moved to postpone action on the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind report to allow the Board of Education to review OPE's recommendations and revisit the topic in four to six months to see what progress the Board of Education has made. Representative Bell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Mohan announced that Paul Headlee will be leaving the office on January 13. The committee wished him the best. In response to Representative Boe's question, Mr. Headlee said he was going to CH²MHill, an engineering company where he will be a contract manager. Mr. Mohan said Mr. Headlee had worked on some large projects and thanked him for all his contributions to the office.

Co-chair Henbest moved to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.