

MINUTES  
**HOUSE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 07, 2012  
**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Room EW05  
**MEMBERS:** Chairman Block, Vice Chairman Hartgen, Representative(s) Lake, Trail, Marriott, Thayn, Simpson, Loertscher, Nessel, Ringo, King  
**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Lake, Trail, Simpson  
**GUESTS:** Richard Armstrong, Russ Barron, Robert Luce, Marilyn Sword, Luann Dettman, Anne Chatfield, Cameron Gilliland, Lori Wolff, Greg Kunz, and Paul J. Spannkebel, Department of Health & Welfare; Heidi Low, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN); Marty Durand, Child Protection Services; Dustin Hurst, Idaho Reporter.com; Sara Stover and Tammy Perkins, Idaho Division of Financial Management; Matt Ellsworth, Legislative Services Office.

**Chairman Block** called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

**Mr. Richard Armstrong**, Director, Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, presented an overview on the 2013 Division of Welfare appropriations request, which is \$2.4 million. This amount does not include child support funding. He reported the Division has 11% fewer employees than in 2007. He also reviewed increased food stamp applications and reevaluations, growth of case workload, upgrade of the eligibility system and improved automated processes.

A question-and-answer period ensued relative to performance measures, case-load increases, solutions to food stamp fraud, and funding authorization.

**Mr. Matt Ellsworth**, Legislative Services Office, presented a general outline of the budgeting process for 2012, and reviewed specific items from the Legislative Budget Book, which is organized by Decision Units: Child Support Loss of Fed Match, Medicaid Readiness, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) MOE (Maintenance of Effort), Energy Assistance Spending Authority, and Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAP) Multiple Day Issuance. The appropriations request is up by 11.1%, versus the Governor's recommendation, up by 10.0%.

Committee members posed questions for **Mr. Ellsworth** and **Ms. Sara Stover**, from the Financial Management Office, who was available to respond to technical questions on the Governor's recommendations.

**Mr. Russ Barron**, Administrator of the Division of Welfare, presented the Budget Breakdown, which covered Workforce Effectiveness, Medicaid Readiness, and Federal Requirements, and the Governor's respective recommendations.

(1) Child Support Loss of Fed Match: \$1,695,800. *Governor's recommendation, \$1,695,800.*

(2) Medicaid Readiness: Agency \$400,000, federal \$3,600,000, Total \$4,000,000 *Governor's recommendation \$4,000,000.*

(3) TANF MOE: Agency request \$951,100. *Governor's recommendation \$951,100.*

(4) Energy Assistance Spending Authority: Agency Request -0- Dedicated \$812,400, federal \$5,827,400, Total \$6,639,800. *Governor's recommendation \$6,639,800.*

(5) SNAP Multiple Day Issuance: Agency request -0-, Dedicated \$100,000, federal \$450,000, Total \$550,000. *Governor's recommendation \$550,000.*

A thorough question-and-answer period covered topics on the above programs.

**Mr. Rob Luce**, Administrator for the Division of Family and Community Services, presented the Division's 2013 appropriations request, which is 2.3% less than the prior year's request.

**Mr. Luce** updated the committee on the child protection and foster care and adoption programs and discussed the impact of "aging out" of the foster care system, which refers to individuals who reach the age of 18 and are no longer supported by foster care but are still not developed enough to be on their own. He also discussed the One-Church-One-Child Initiative, the Scholarship and Trust Account Initiative, and the Division's high employee turnover rate due to job stress.

Committee members asked questions about case load numbers and high employee turnover.

**Mr. Matt Ellsworth** illustrated the use of an Excel score card to organize and allocate committee members' budgeting preferences. Mr. Ellsworth will provide the spreadsheet in digital form and requested that committee members return the completed form via email.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

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Representative Block  
Chair

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Jeanne Clayton  
Secretary