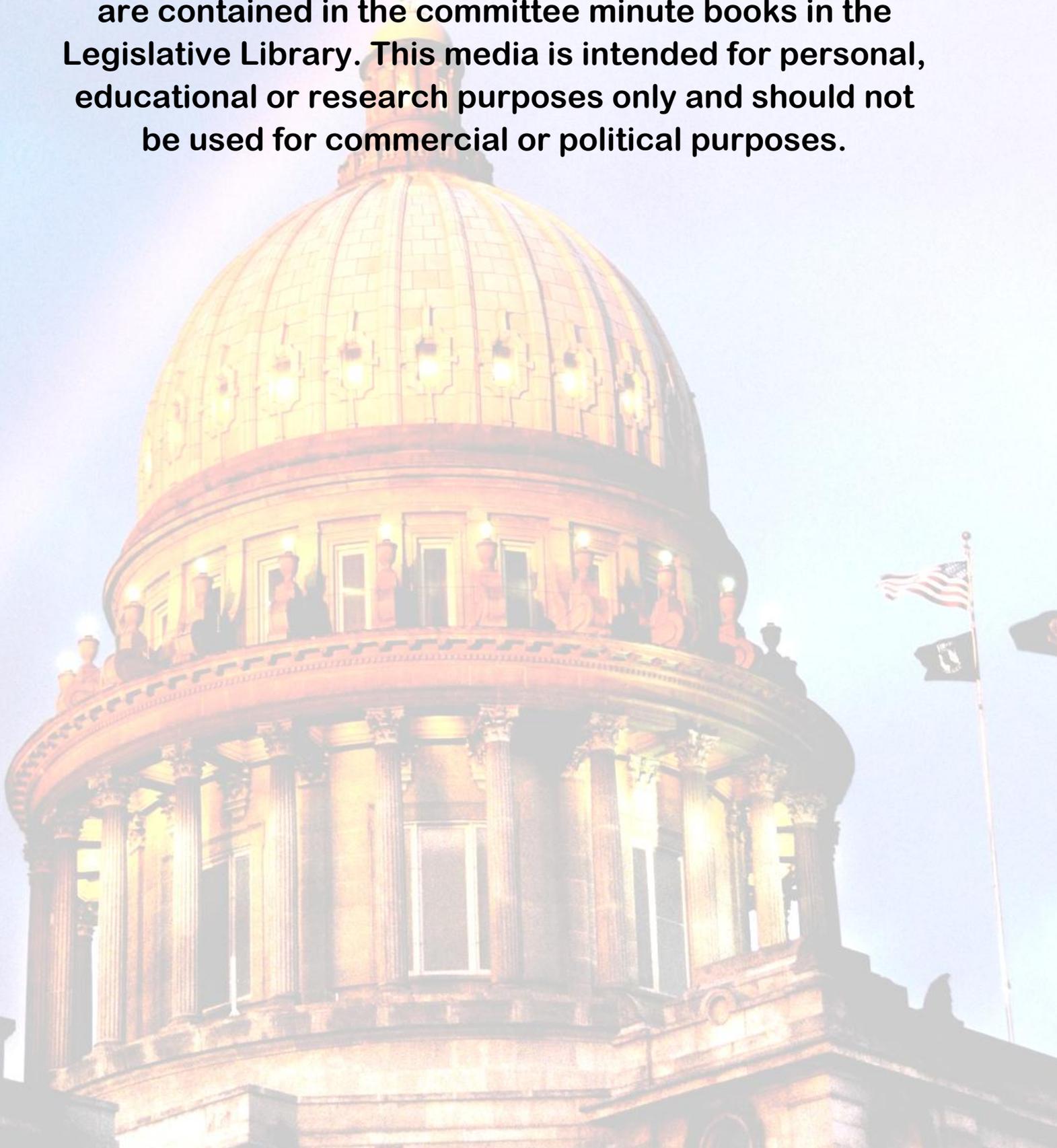


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JFAC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1/18/13

The hearing was held in Room C310, Statehouse, commencing at 8:00 a.m. and concluding at 9:52 a.m. with Chairman Cameron presiding.

Roll Call:

Senators: Cameron, Keough, Mortimer, Vick, Nuxoll, Johnson, Bayer, Thayn, Schmidt, Lacey

Representatives: Bell, Bolz, Eskridge, Thompson, Gibbs, Stevenson, Miller, Youngblood, Ringo, King

Absent/Excused: None

Staff present: Tatro

Others present: Trina Ayres, Administrative Services Manager, Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION: Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

Presenter: Don Alveshere, Administrator

- ❖ Three continuing programs
 - Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Extended Employment Services (EES)
 - Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- ❖ Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Mission: "Preparing individuals with disabilities for employment and community enrichment"
 - Accomplishments
 - Passed federal performance standards and indicators
 - Implemented WorkStrides program for IDVR customers
 - Completion of Motivational Interviewing training by all field staff
 - Submitted updated agency policy manual for legislative approval for FY 2014
 - Federal FY 2010 – IDVR ranked 4th out of 52 state and territory vocational rehabilitation agencies
 - In 2012, VR customers increased their average weekly wages by 408% from \$78.39/week to \$398.42/week (surveyed 1,800 people)
- ❖ Extended Employment Services
 - Accomplishments

- Increased the number of community supported employment placements
 - 615 customers in competitive wage positions in FY 2012 compared to 546 last year, a 12% increase
 - 444 customers in facility-based work compared to 480 last year
 - Service delivery changes
 - Transitioned to customer-centered service delivery model
 - Money follows the person emphasis
 - Provides options for customers and flexibility for providers
 - Same expenditure per state region – more individuals served
 - Waiting List
 - Remains a significant barrier to employment
 - All new applicants wait-listed
 - 400 individuals awaiting service
 - 100% of trustee and benefit funds already allocated to current customers
- ❖ Council for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CDHH)
 - Purpose: to create an environment in which 150,000 deaf and hard of hearing Idahoans of all ages have an equal opportunity to participate fully as active, responsible, productive, and independent citizens
 - Accomplishments
 - Established a task force to evaluate mental health services for deaf and hard of hearing population
 - Assisted in the establishment of the deaf/blind equipment distribution program funded through the FCC
 - Established Sound Beginnings newborn hearing screening program
 - Instrumental in passing legislation for educational interpreter qualifications
 - Established seven equipment demonstration and loan centers throughout the state to assist those with hearing loss to choose appropriate technology
 - Coordinated the installation of three first free public access videophones in Idaho for those using sign language
 - Created Idaho Directory of Sign Language/Oral Interpreters
- ❖ Program Elimination – State Renal Program
 - Elimination based on an Office of Performance Evaluations audit
 - Program phase-out to be completed by June, 2013
- ❖ Alternative Funding Sources
 - Cooperative Agreements
 - Non-general funds used to match federal grant money
 - \$574,000 in cooperative agreements leveraged to create \$2,695,000
 - Amounts to 15% of total program
 - Agreements assist IDVR make up the gap from state funding to capture more of available federal grant money
 - Funding risk of cooperative agreements

- Current Agreements
 - School-to-Work Consortium
 - Department of Labor
 - Department of Correction
 - Department of Juvenile Corrections
 - Department of Health and Welfare
 - Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind (IESDB)
- Agreement funds used to meet match requirements
 - Match is 21.3% of total program
 - Each \$1 loss in match is a \$3.69 loss in federal funds
 - Percent of change from 2008 to 2012
 - Received targeted funding for audit & collections
 - Pressures to redistribute new funding to balance workload in support functions to maintain expansion
 - Transfers and the Governor recommended redistribution of funding from Audit & Collections into General Services and Property Tax
 - Requested transfers and the Governor recommended redistribution of funding from Audit & Collections into General Services and Property Tax
 - Negative funding variance with current FTP
- Social Security reimbursements
 - FY 2012 total Social Security Administration reimbursements equaled \$500,000
 - IDVR receives reimbursements of case costs for customers who were SSI/SSDI beneficiaries while working with Vocational Rehabilitation
 - VR services result in customers employment, eliminating the need for Social Security benefits
 - Amount of reimbursements may vary from year to year
 - Reimbursement funds cannot be used to match federal grant moneys
 - Risk to funding
 - No fiscal impact from sequestration is anticipated
 - Total FY 2012 Grant is for \$15,390,000
 - Potential cut from sequestration is \$1,200,000
 - Amount returned to federal program was \$1,557,000
 - Returned FY 2011 grant for \$2,117,000
- Audit Findings (six) – All findings have been addressed
 - Federal financial reports
 - Contract payments from ARRA
 - Maintenance of effort
 - Procurement policies
 - Indirect costs
 - Eligibility
- ❖ IDVR workforce
 - Permanent employees: (benefitted) 142

- Temporary employee(s): (non-benefitted) 1
- Retained positions not currently filled: 9
- ❖ Staff retention
 - Hiring and retention of qualified personnel continues to be a major agency concern
 - Program requires specific master's level counseling degree and experience
 - Small applicant pool
 - Low wages compared with other state agencies requiring similar level of skill
 - Low wages when compared with other states' VR programs
- ❖ Budget request
 - MCO budget plus \$16,500 (ongoing from General Fund for CDHH)
 - \$15,000 in operating expenditures
 - \$1,500 for personnel costs
 - To be used for additional interpreting services
 - Replacement items
 - 25 desktop computers with monitors
 - 10 laptops with docking stations
 - 50 flat panel monitors

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR: Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Presenter: Angela Jones, Administrator

- ❖ Description of Commission (ICBVI) and goal
 - Five-member board appointed by Governor
 - Goal is to provide direct service training to eligible blind and visually impaired so they can become employed and contribute independently to their own well being
 - Definition of "legally blind" and statistics
 - 20/200 best corrected
 - 79% of the blind have some useful vision
 - 19% have very little vision
 - 2.0% have total vision loss
 - 82% of legally blind cannot be recognized as being blind (11% use a cane and 7% use a guide dog)
 - Administration
 - Main office is located in Boise and 5 regional offices
 - Administer five grants
 - Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Independent Living
 - Independent Living Older Blind
 - Community Supported Employment
 - In-Service Training Grant

- Budget request for FY 2014
 - General Funds \$1,282,800
 - Dedicated Funds \$ 373,900
 - Federal Funds \$2,853,200

❖ Programs

- Vocational Blind Rehabilitation
 - Assists people with visual impairments/blindness to establish and reach vocational goals by providing specialized blind training, guidance, assessments, counseling and assistive technology
 - Also provides training for current or potential employers
 - Number of clients continues to increase due to the increase in diabetes (which is the leading cause of blindness for those under age 55)
 - 506 people served in this program in 2012
 - In 2012 the cost per rehabilitation of a VR client in Idaho was \$3,863 (50% less than the national average)
- Summer Work Experience Program
 - Five-week program providing employment experience to transition age students ages 14 to 21
 - Areas served
 - 27% of students were from north Idaho
 - 55% were from the Treasure Valley
 - 18% were from eastern Idaho
- Independent Living/Older Blind Program
 - Teachers specialize in blind skills training and go into individuals' homes to teach skills
 - Program trains family members about blindness
 - 17 volunteer peer support groups in Idaho
 - Seniors acquire skills that delay the need for assisted living or nursing home care, saving \$36,000 to \$60,000 per person per year
 - 17% increase in people using this program in five years (due to Macular Degeneration – a leading cause of blindness for people over age 55)
- Assessment and Training Center
 - Intense course of classes where students learn Braille, computer skills, travel skills, home maintenance, cooking, job readiness, social skills and woodworking
 - Learn other activities related to confidence, employment and independent living goals
 - Full-time students live in the ICBVI dorm rooms to train for above-listed skills
 - In class seven hours a day, five days a week
 - Length of training is three to nine months
 - Student enrollment numbers have increased 44% since 2008

❖ Budget recommendations

- FY 2013 supplemental
 - \$21,200, one-time request, for federal funds spending authority
 - \$289,400, ongoing Title 1 federal funds
 - \$2,200, ongoing increase, and 0.12 FTP to fully support the sale of adaptive aids and appliances that are sold by the agency
- FY 2014
 - \$100,000 spending authority to utilize a portion of the \$600,000 charitable donation received during FY 2011
 - \$35,000 for operating expenditures
 - \$65,000 for trustee and benefits
- ❖ Agency updates
 - ICBVI single audit in 2010-11 had one finding that has been cleared
 - ICBVI has signed a five-year lease at \$2.35 per square foot with the Commission on Aging
 - The annual RSA 722 Report on Client Appeals for ICBVI has been zero for the last six years
 - In a survey of 103 Independent Living Program clients age 55 and older, the majority of respondents scored ICBVI 5 out of 5 regarding services received/available
 - ICBVI used salary savings from an open position due to retirement to fund one-time temporary increases for staff based on performance
- ❖ Employee compensation is a critical component in the budget

STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)

Presenter: Robbi Barrutia, Executive Director

- ❖ Mission: to promote the independent living philosophy for all Idahoans with disabilities: choice, self-determination, and access for all
- ❖ According to Federal Rehabilitation Act SILC is independent –not an entity within any state agency
- ❖ SILC Funding
 - Federal Workforce Investment Act
 - Passed through IDVR
 - The Title VII-B grant requires a 10% non-federal in-kind or cash match
 - IDVR also provides Title 1 grant funds requiring a 21.3% non-federal cash match
 - Grant
 - Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG)
 - Money Follows the Person
 - Aging and Disability Resource Center
 - Contract
 - Partnership with the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence for an Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) grant
 - State General Funds appropriated by the Legislature

- ❖ SILC Board and Membership
 - Individuals (22) are appointed by the Governor
 - Appointed for a 3-year term
 - Board members represent a broad range of disabilities, must be knowledgeable about Centers for Independent Living (CIL) and Independent Living services
 - Voting Members
 - 51% of Board must be made up of people with disabilities
 - Parents of children, or adults with disabilities
 - Advocates for people with disabilities
 - Center for Independent Living representatives
 - Service providers for people with disabilities
 - Business representatives
 - Non-voting members
 - Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
 - Department of Health and Welfare
 - Department of Education – Division of Special Education
 - Idaho Commission on Aging
- ❖ SILC Responsibilities
 - Develops, signs and submits the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) in cooperation with IDVR and ICBVI
 - Monitors, reviews, and evaluates the implementation of the State Plan for Independent Living
 - Supports the Centers for Independent Living (CILS) and advocates for Independent Living Services
 - Gathers information, conducts studies and analyses, develops model policies, conducts training on the Independent Living philosophy, and outreach to un-served or underserved populations
 - Carries out demonstrations to expand and improve Independent Living services and activities to improve the current disability service system
- ❖ SILC Accomplishments
 - Protects parents with disabilities from discrimination in child custody court cases
 - Idaho Building Code Advisory Act
 - Voter accessibility
 - Accessible parking and new transportation options
 - Adding disability as a protected class within the Human Rights Act
 - Medicaid for workers with disabilities
- ❖ Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG)
 - Coordinates information about eligibility for the Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities (Medicaid Buy-In) and other incentives to work
 - Educates providers, businesses, the public and Idahoans with disabilities about eligibility and other incentives to work
 - Partnered with Idaho Parents Unlimited to establish the VSA Arts Creative Arts Center

- Creation of the ABLE to Work website (effective January of 2013)
- Funded the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) position with DRI
- Needs assessment with Boise State University
- University of Idaho Youth in Transition Project
- All Seasons Mental Health Transition Project
- MIG Grant - \$750,000 HHS through Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (2011 – third year \$750,000 continuation funding)
- 2012 - \$250,000 supplemental funding
- MIG provided \$200,000 in funding to implement a new bus service with Valley Regional Transit that began in June of 2011, Route 55. Route has since expanded to Flex Routes 57 and 58 and Route 73 providing transportation options for western Treasure Valley residents
- ❖ Staff of four
 - Full time Director
 - Full time MIG Director
 - Half time Management Assistant
 - Half time OVW Project Manager
 - Full time Financial Specialist
- ❖ FY 2014 Governor's budget recommendation
 - General Fund \$ 98,000
 - Dedicated Fund \$247,300
 - Federal Fund \$371,400

SELF-GOVERNING AGENCIES: Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Presenter: Margie Gonzalez, Executive Director

- ❖ Overview of Agency
 - Commission established in 1987
 - Core functions
 - Advising the Governor, Legislature and Executive Departments and Agencies on matters of State affecting Idaho's Hispanic population
 - Serve as a liaison between the community and government entities to improve quality of life for Idaho's Hispanic population
 - Governance
 - One office located in Boise
 - Staff: Executive Director, Prevention Specialist, Administrative Assistant
 - Board of nine people – five appointed by the Governor and four from the Legislature
- ❖ Commission statistics
 - Hispanics are the largest minority group in Idaho representing 11.1% of the total population in 2011
 - From 2000 to 2010 the Hispanic population increased by more than 74,000 or 73% growth

- 45% of Idaho's Hispanics were 19 years of age or younger in 2010
- Districts 3 and 5 have the highest concentration of Hispanics
- Idaho counties with most Hispanics as of 2012:
 - Canyon County 46,200
 - Bingham County 8,088
 - Jerome County 7,260
 - Cassia County 5,843
 - Gooding County 4,348
- Idaho's K-12 Hispanic student population has grown from 26,966 students in 2003 to 45,805 in 2011-12
- School districts with highest percentage of Hispanic students
 - Wilder 78.46%
 - Caldwell 57.54%
 - Aberdeen 56.40%
 - Murtaugh Joint 54.47%
 - Clark County 51.12%
 - Wendell 46.84%
- Hispanic population growth poses key challenges
 - Education
 - Health and Human Services
 - Business and Economic/Workforce
 - Public Policy
- ❖ Priorities
 - Top priority: to improve educational outcomes for Hispanics and close the current academic achievement gap
 - Collecting and disseminating demographic/statistical data on Hispanics through special studies to guide and inform educators, policymakers, and other parties interested in promoting equity and improving achievement. Data collection is focused on:
 - Education
 - Health and Human Services
 - Business and Economic/Workforce Development
 - Public Policy
- ❖ Special Studies
 - Hispanic Health Disparities in Idaho
 - Community Impacts of Idaho's Dairy Industry
 - Hispanic Buying Power 2011
 - Idaho-at-a-Glance Series
 - The Hispanic Profile to be released in February 2013
- ❖ Accomplishments
 - Partnership with the Department of Education to eliminate academic performance gaps between Hispanics and Non-Hispanics and reduce dropout rates

- Most recent National Report Card comparing student achievement across the country shows Idaho's Hispanic students are making more progress in vocabulary than students in any other state
- Decreasing Dropout Rates
 - In 2009-10, 1.72% of Hispanics dropped out of secondary schools down from 8.2% in 2000-01 and 12.7% in 1993-94. Educational gains are slowly being made
 - Record enrollment of Hispanics in Higher Education
 - Commission has sought to expand access to financial aid
 - Community outreach
 - Idaho college with highest Hispanic graduation was the University of Idaho (40%), followed by Lewis-Clark State College (27%), Boise State University (17%), and Idaho State University (12%)
- ❖ FY budget
 - FY 2013 supplemental requesting ongoing increase of \$10,000 to the Miscellaneous Revenue Fund to accommodate contributions received in excess of previous expectations for community activities
 - FY 2014
 - Requesting \$78,600 for the continuation of one FTP for a substance abuse prevention specialist position (previously approved by the Legislature on a one-time basis). Funding has come from tobacco tax dollars appropriated to the Department of Education and transferred to the Commission.
 - Requesting \$10,000 ongoing for programs on Hispanic health
 - Requesting \$3,800 ongoing from all fund sources to cover increased IT service costs provided by the Department of Administration
 - Budget by decision unit per Governor's recommendation
 - 3.00 FTP
 - General Funds \$ 96,600
 - Dedicated Funds \$ 98,700
 - Federal Funds \$ 40,900

ADJOURNED

Senator Dean L. Cameron, Chairman

Peggy Moyer, Secretary