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## MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

**Date:** Wednesday, Oct. 7th  
**Time:** 1:00 – 4:00 PM  
**Location:** Department of Health  
Room 125  
Cannon Office Building  
288 N 1460 W  
Salt Lake City

**Conference Call-in Number: 1-800-350-0593**  
**No Access Code Required**

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### **DWS/Work Supports:**

**1:00 Welcome and Introductions**

**1:05 Follow-Up Items**

- a. TANF Dollars Being Used for Temporary Rental Assistance and Case Mangement – was some discussion on this at August meeting, just want an update on how things are going. (Helen Thatcher)

Being used with State Community Service Office – DWS using stimulus \$ - \$4 million over 2 years. Add'l EA will get reimbursed 80%. K with CSO and they will subcontract the money out. TANF surplus is gone, spending more now than bringing in to the state. CSO distributing to homeless prevention rapid rehousing program. HPRP

- b. Transient Assistance Fund- Yvette said at the last meeting that she will get us the procedures for how they handle this across the state, can we still get this? How is this being handled statewide? (Debbie Herr)

Last year had only \$18,000 statewide. With change to ESD – any customer can walk into local employment center and inquire about funds. In other areas of the state, if not opened for business, the local community will go to other resources to assist them. Not enough money to help everyone. There really isn't any information about what other areas do. St. George, Logan and Provo were the bigger spots for accessing this. Local police seem to play a role in this. However, there does not appear to be a way to get these dollars outside of the office hours.

- c. Eligibility Services Division – We talked about getting the graphic of the new team, is this available? (Debbie Herr)

Graphic available.

- d. DWS Budget – has DWS submitted it to the Governor yet? What does DWS plan to ask for and for what purposes? Where are potential cuts being made? (Bill Greer)

FY09 – broke \$1 billion for the first time. For FY10, already projecting overspending. Of \$1 Billion, 7% is state funds, about 1/3rd are MOE for child care and TANF. Most of the rest is for 2 federally-mandated (entitlement) programs – 50/50 match for FS and Medicaid. FS up over 44% over last year. Medicaid, in last month, is the 4th highest 1 month increase in the last year (just over 3,000 people added to medicaid in the last month). These are both way over the funding. ARRA increased FS benefit 13.6%.

Have submitted to the Governor. Key requests for federal mandates – only asking for FS and Medicaid. Have asked for both supplementals for current year and building blocks for the new year. Has an impact on state-funded programs, because only discretionary have – GA, mandated to make some adjustments – goal has been to preserve benefits and services to clients and maintain staffing. Employment development side – trying to reduce costs there.

Looks like legislative audit will not be too contentious, also doing an in-depth budget review of the agency. Looking at funding, no indication on this one way or the other. Will be reported to exec approps in Nov. Leg Audit come out in December.

Take about a 10% budget cut in FY11, even if nothing happens. Have been asked to submit for 1%, 3% and 5%. Lost matching funds for childcare at end of special session over a year ago, did have unspent TANF \$ and were able to cover this.

Special Admin Fund – now only about \$2 million, already appropriated the past year. How much longer is the downfall going to be?

All caseloads are growing but childcare. UI growth does have an impact on overall administrative costs and security for walk-in traffic. Has had some public safety issues. 1% cut is around \$700,000. Have about \$72 million of state funds.

\*\*\*\* Really good thing would be to find new revenue streams.

Sheila – a lot of agencies have a lot less private dollars that we can use than in the past. All new monies are federal. For thinking about the MOE match.

Bill – are taking into consideration that a lot of federal dollars out there now that won't count for MOE. Looking at every possibility of partnerships. TANF reauthorization may reduce the MOE requirements.

Did meet with exec approps chairs, haven't heard back yet.

**1:25 General Assistance (Helen Thatcher and Jeff Webster)**

- a. Our agencies have been seeing some impact on the GA issue. Can we get some updates on those who have lost benefits, the number applying for benefits, the number qualifying for benefits, how the medical community is responding to the new form 1 or where it is in re-development, any changes that are under consideration since the hearing, etc. (Sheila Walsh-

McDonald)

Handouts given that show budget and expenditure for FY10 for GA. Only have data for July and August. Eligibility, Case Mgmt, Admin Costs done out of RMTS – not really valid til have a full quarter, so July and August match. Applications are still up over 2,000. Forecast to spend \$7 million, and budget is only \$5.1 mill. Only have budget for 855 cases, but are over this right now. Caseload had a big drop between July and August, dropped a little in September, but applications are still high. Helen is not going to panic or worry til have September numbers, but as of now, DWS is really way off from where they need to be to stay within budget. Quarter by quarter will be much more statistically valid.

Sheila – what would be helpful – to have a line for applications received. Interested in knowing if the demand is there. Curious – is request still there for financial assistance, has the changes of time limits impacted it? Form I impact? Has been getting calls from attorneys' offices of people who have been cut off and are on life-saving medications. Don't have a partner in the world who will give them money monthly. Agencies are losing revenue because people don't have GA to contribute to housing costs.

Helen – if it doesn't look better, still have cuts to make in this program year. Next year, will go down to \$3 million if even get that. Right now, it is gone.

- b. Further discussion, input and help on outreaching to other service providers and possible the LDS church to see if we can come up with a statewide plan to assist this population. (Melissa Smith)

Helen – on the SOAR piece, big concern about people who still hit the time limit and their process isn't finished. DWS cannot continue the SOAR process with them. Brought it up last time, but no takers. Have Jeff become a trainer to keep own staff on SOAR, and anyone who will get the referrals. Legislature will not like a program to pay for people to get on a federal program. This really isn't understood outside of the homeless community.

Karen – if had a working group, could come up with a strategy for the legislature, we always need a GA strategy every year. Would be willing to check this out.

Will send out email to organize GA working group in the next few days.

Helen – actually are approving fewer people for GA, but have more applications. There is still some discomfort with just giving people money with no accountability. About 75% are in long-term.

## **1:40 Unemployment Insurance**

- a. Social Security Offset and Unemployment Insurance – last month the Workforce Services, Commerce and Economic Development Interim Committee heard testimony on whether to let the 50% social security retirement offset of unemployment insurance sunset. The committee decided to remove the sunset from the bill, though there is possibly a movement to run a 0% offset bill. The Employment Advisory Council will be meeting on this on October 15th. Update and discussion. (Melissa Smith)
- b. Alternative Base Period – the alternative base period modernization provision passed out of the Interim committee. Quick update. (Melissa Smith)

**1:50 E-Rep (Debbie Herr)**

The statewide conversion of E-Rep began on October 5th. Teams of Eligibility staff will be in rotating training so wait times may increase for a few months during the conversion. Brief Discussion.

Handouts given.

First conversion – about 1200 cases, doing program by program and hope to be completed by June 2010. All staff are in the middle of training, so will be challenge, but committed to keeping customer service good and benefits going out timely. Is all hands on deck right now for this. Individuals who work from home will be pulled into the office for a bit to get mentored training now through May 2010. Notification of customers about the change. Will get the posters at the employment centers. Send out notices to customers, also a stuffer in one of the DWS notices.

Sheila – one tip would be – whenever possible, use a landline, since wait times are long.

Debbie – can also go to the centers and use the phones.

Will be making these available to be emailed out to community agencies to give to clients or to staff. Have decided to put them in PACMIS, then will convert case until everything is changed over to eRep. Notices are going to look difference now too. Want to makes sure people know.

**2:05 ARRA Dollars (Mike Richardson)**

Quick update on status of grant applications. Which were selected for submission? Expected timelines.

**2:15 Demand Driven Approach to Talent and Workforce Development (Diane Lovell)**

In June, Greg Gardner presented the "demand driven" approach to "talent and workforce development". According to DWS' timeline this is supposed to be finalized in September. What is the outcome? How does DWS plan to monitor for effectiveness and satisfaction of businesses and job seekers? (Karen Silver)

Diane – White paper about demand driven. Going in 3 phases – data gathering to get input, going to staff working groups – this culminated in September – all prepared preliminary reports. Plan is to post the recommendations on the internet by the end of October. Implementation process won't begin until Jan. 1, but not a hard and fast deadline, want to do it right, more important than hitting dates.

Looking at pulling together a customer satisfaction survey, both for customer and employers, will let as know as it gets developed.

**DOH/Health:**

**2:30 Welcome and Introductions**

**2:35 Medicaid Enrollment Increase (Michael Hales)**

Medicaid providers trying to understand how much their provider reimbursement rates have decreased since the 2008 Special Session. There has been much made regarding the pediatric dentist 25% reimbursement rate decrease. However, what about other the provider

reimbursement rates? What percentage reduction have these other groups experienced?

**3:00 Update on Emergency Medicaid Dental.**

The DOH was doing a cost benefit analysis of providing this service. Has this been completed?

**3:15 New Organizational Structure of DOH.**

**Topics Welcome!**

We find these meetings are most productive when topics are generated by the community. Please email ideas for topics to [melissa@utahcap.org](mailto:melissa@utahcap.org) or [lincoln@healthpolicyproject.org](mailto:lincoln@healthpolicyproject.org). Thanks.