

NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tentative Agenda

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 1, 2008
Roughrider Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

9:00 a.m. Call to order
Roll call
Consideration of the minutes of the previous meeting

VARIOUS COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

9:05 a.m. Presentation by a representative of the Insurance Department regarding the Insurance Commissioner's recommendation for a private entity to contract with to perform cost-benefit analyses of health insurance mandates during the 2009 legislative session

9:20 a.m. Presentation by representatives of the Department of Human Services of a report regarding the alternatives-to-abortion services program pursuant to 2007 Senate Bill No. 2312

9:35 a.m. Presentation by representatives of the Drug Utilization Review Board of a report regarding utilization, costs, and effectiveness of certain drugs pursuant to 2007 House Bill No. 1422

9:50 a.m. Presentation by a representative of the Department of Human Services regarding the status of the department's budget

IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM TRANSITION

10:05 a.m. Presentation by representatives of the State Department of Health regarding:

- Status of the immunization program transition, including information on the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences' billing system and the interface with Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota
- Report on school clinics and the process involved in collecting insurance information
- Impact of public health units not receiving private insurance data or receiving incorrect insurance information
- The number of public health units that were providing immunizations prior to the transition, the number that will no longer be offering this service, and the number of children affected

10:35 a.m. Comments by a representative of Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota regarding the immunization program transition

10:50 a.m. Comments by other interested persons

STUDY OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STATE AND COUNTIES

11:00 a.m. Presentation by representatives of the Department of Human Services regarding:

- Estimated county-avoided costs of the "swap" agreement
- Positive and negative aspects of the "swap" agreement and any proposed changes to the economic assistance program responsibilities of the state or counties
- Eligibility issues or concerns relating to economic assistance programs

- 11:20 a.m. Presentation by a representative of the North Dakota Association of Counties regarding:
- Positive and negative aspects of the "swap" agreement and any proposed changes to the economic assistance program responsibilities of the state or counties
 - Eligibility issues or concerns relating to economic assistance programs
- 11:40 a.m. Comments by other interested persons
- 11:50 a.m. Committee discussion
- 12:00 noon Luncheon recess

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES STUDY

- 1:00 p.m. Presentation by the Legislative Council staff of a memorandum providing information on the New Mexico "Education Works" and Arkansas "Work Pays" programs
- 1:15 p.m. Presentation by representatives of the Department of Human Services regarding:
- North Dakota's diversion assistance program, including the number of individuals served that enter the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program, the number of individuals served that avoid the TANF program, and whether the program can engage individuals in employment faster
 - North Dakota's transition assistance program, including whether appropriate services are being provided, the appropriateness of the length of time of assistance, how long individuals stay employed after exiting the program, and whether the program counts toward an individual's 60-month TANF limit
 - Available outcome and performance data on TANF program components
 - Appropriateness of the state's restriction on allowing two-parent families in the TANF program
 - History of eligibility requirements for the TANF program
 - Projected June 30, 2009, TANF carryover balance
 - Suggestions for areas to consider reviewing or changing in the TANF program or related programs
- 2:00 p.m. Presentation by a representative of the Department of Human Services regarding responses to the following questions relating to the TANF program
- Is the state meeting federal work participation requirements?
 - Is the state improving the effective engagement of parents in the TANF program?
 - Has the department shifted more money into welfare-to-work programs to improve work participation?
 - Do TANF program sanctions work?
 - Is the state effectively engaging clients that have difficult challenges and multiple barriers?
 - Does the TANF program provide positive incentives for recipients to start work and increase work effort, i.e., earnings disregards and postemployment assistance?
- 2:15 p.m. Presentation by representatives of the Department of Human Services regarding the following recommendations made by the North Dakota County Social Service Directors Association to improve the TANF program and the estimated costs and timeframes to implement the recommendations:
- Simplify the transfer process of clients between the diversion program and the TANF program

- Allow payment of TANF transition child care expenses directly to the provider rather than the client
 - Eliminate the delay and availability of the TANF grant for first-time ReliaCard users
 - Extend education as an allowable job opportunities and basic skills (JOBS) activity from 12 months to at least 24 months
 - Establish a penalty for all TANF households who submit their reports after the 10th of the month
 - Possibility of changing the TANF basic grant amount
- 2:30 p.m. Presentation by a representative of the Department of Human Services regarding estimated costs of providing additional postsecondary education opportunities for TANF clients, including the estimated number of clients that would be involved and opportunities for the TANF program to address areas of work shortage
- 2:45 p.m. Presentation by representatives of Job Service North Dakota regarding:
- Training and education needs of TANF clients that would allow them to earn more than the minimum wage
 - Types of jobs in the state that are in demand and require completion of a 12-month or 24-month education program and the average wages for these types of positions
- 3:15 p.m. Comments by other interested persons
- 3:30 p.m. Committee discussion and staff directives
- 4:30 p.m. Adjourn

Committee Members

Representatives Jeff Delzer (Chairman), Patrick R. Hatlestad, Curt Hofstad, Lee Kaldor, James Kerzman, Gary Kreidt, Jon Nelson, Vonnie Pietsch, Chet Pollert, Clara Sue Price, Ken Svedjan, Robin Weisz

Senators JoNell A. Bakke, Dick Dever, Robert S. Erbele, Aaron Krauter, Judy Lee, Jim Pomeroy, John M. Warner