

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

January 14, 1999 Hearing Room B

8:00 a.m. Tapes 1 - 3

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Bill Fisher, Chair

Sen. Frank Shields, Vice-Chair

Sen. Susan Castillo

Sen. Verne Duncan

MEMBER EXCUSED:

Sen. Marylin Shannon

STAFF PRESENT:

Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator

Diana Bronson, Administrative Support

ISSUES HEARD:

Adoption of committee rules

Department of Human Resources Presentation

of Legislative Priorities

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 1, A		
005	Chair Fisher	Convenes meeting at 8:04 A.M., welcomes the audience and requests member introductions.
035	Chair Fisher	MOTION MOTION ADOP1 the propose Commi Rules dated 12/29/98 (EXHIBIT A)

		VOTE: 4-0 EXCUSED: 1 ñ Shannon
	Chair Fisher	Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED .
<u>DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES</u>		
055	Gary Weeks	Director, Department of Human Resources (DHR). Presen an overview of DHR (EXHIBIT B). Introduces Bob Minl Deputy Director of DHR.
158	Weeks	Continues department background. Discusses the importar of legislative and community partnerships. Notes the components and strategies making DHR more accountable Describes mission statements and goals that will make pec healthier and more independent.
264	Sen. Shields	Questions the outcomes of alcohol programs.
268	Weeks	Responds that he does not have that information. He will provide it to the committee. Continues the presentation an discusses the Ombudsman Office.
319	Weeks	Continues review of the medical assistance programs, the community partnership teams, and other related offices.
321	Sen. Duncan	Acknowledges the professional quality of handout.
330	Weeks	Responds in appreciation. States the information describes the departmentis organization.
354	Bob Mink	Deputy Director, DHR, comments on the size and partnerships of DHR.
364	Weeks	Continues review of Oregonis welfare reform. Notes that Oregon is one of the only states where there is an umbrellk organization that offers drug, mental health, and domestic violence services.
429	Sen. Shields	Comments in support of DHRis direction. Discusses persc experiences, and notes the concept is good and hopes the department will keep moving forward.
TAPE 2, A		
013	Weeks	Comments in agreement. Discusses the departmentis relationship with the Governor.
049	Sen. Shields	Describes situations where people with alcohol, drug, and learning problems, are misplaced.
069	Sen. Duncan	Describes similar situations.
074	Weeks	Responds to these concerns.

080	Chair Fisher	Comments on the difficulties associated with these problems. Acknowledges support for DHR and the changes made during the past four years.
126	Sen. Castillo	Questions if DHR is making any progress with the mental health program.
142	Weeks	States they are making progress. The budget is available, but notes it may not be adequate.
170	Sen. Castillo	States there are gaps in the mental health program. Describes a constituent situation.
181	Weeks	Describes and discusses that the department has to provide early mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment and domestic violence counseling. States a more aggressive approach needs to be made available to families.
199	Sen. Duncan	Questions if parenting issues were adopted, would it make a difference.
205	Weeks	Responds it would depend on what issues were adopted. Continues review of proposed legislation (EXHIBIT B).
236	Mink	States they have 25 pieces of legislation: 15 in the Senate, 10 in the House.
283	Weeks	Reviews proposed legislation that would change the department's name to "Human Services" instead of "Human Resources." Notes the difficulties in changing a state agency name, but requests discussion.
319	Chair Fisher	Comments in agreement.
323	Mink	Reviews another piece of proposed legislation, SB 405. Describes and explains the intent.
334	Chair Fisher	Notes concern and discusses fair market value.
355	Weeks	Responds and states that the resources would go into a trust and would be used to maintain community based housing.
367	Mink	Remarks that SB 405 provides for the future needs of the community based care. States that this would give the division the ability to own real property. Continues overview.
482	Chair Fisher	Questions if the department has determined which committees will review SB 405.
489	Weeks	Responds no, but he expects the bill will be assigned to the Health and Human Services Committee.
TAPE 1, B		
016	Weeks	<p>Notes that child abuse issues may go to the Judiciary Committee. Continues review of proposed legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 2168 - treatment of individuals driving under the influence of alcohol. • HB 2171 - transfers the Children's Ombudsman Office from the State Commission to the Department of

		Human Resources to the Governor's Advocacy Office
034	Sen. Duncan	Expresses concern for the appearance of control within the director's office.
063	Sen. Shields	Comments in agreement.
068	Mink	Responds that he is not sure how to correct the appearance inpropriety.
088	Weeks	Agrees that a discussion is needed and asks how the department can present an independent, objective evaluation.
104	Chair Fisher	Notes agreement with stated concerns. States that personalities need to be set aside and proper rules set up for the department. States the legislators can help in the process.
150	Mink	Continues review of SB 306, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
180	Sen. Duncan	Questions the time lines of children being kept out of the family.
186	Weeks	Responds that the time line is 15 months. Notes that the department will be working vigorously with the family. States they have met with Chief Justice Carson to discuss situation.
213	Mink	Discusses the Governor's priorities; education, crime prevention, alcohol and drug services, and mental health services are top priorities.
275	Chair Fisher	Remarks that transportation services will assist in getting people to the doctor, school, and training, but will not help them with employment.
280	Weeks	Agrees. States it is not a Medicaid service.
310	Chair Fisher	Discusses the use of vans. Notes the dilemma of state and private funds.
358	Weeks	Describes new initiatives and efforts being offered to employ persons with disabilities.
TAPE 2, B		
003	Weeks	Discusses the importance of the disabled to be employed and maintain benefits.
010	Sen. Duncan	Questions the impact of employing prisoners before persons with disabilities.
021	Weeks	Explains the situation of employing higher skilled individuals. Describes the disabled worker and how funding should be available to promote appropriate programs.
060	Weeks	Continues discussion on family safety net programs. Notes that communities need resources to help intervene.

104	Weeks	States that the Governor's budget proposes reductions in the health plan. Discusses concerns relating to funding.
145	Sen. Shields	Questions if people could die because organizations would not have funding to provide services.
148	Weeks	States it may be possible. Notes that medical services are to be provided by law. Discusses Type B hospitals.
174	Sen. Duncan	Asks for clarification of Type B hospitals.
174	Weeks	Explains Type B hospitals are less than 50 beds and within 30 miles of a larger hospital. Continues with other budget items in the budget that impact the health plan. States that continuing the tobacco tax qualified children would be covered under CHIP. Reviews Type A hospitals being less than 50 beds and more than 30 miles away and that most of these hospitals are very rural and very small. States that unless the tobacco tax comes in with a special reimbursement plan, these hospitals could be discontinued.
224	Chair Fisher	Introduces Barry Kast.
232	Barry Kast	Administrator of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Services Division.
234	Chair Fisher	Questions witness if he could address mental health parity.
251	Kast	Describes the Oregon Health Plan which grew out of Oregon's approach to Medicaid. States that the mental health plan was not originally part of the Oregon Health Plan, but began integration in 1993.
305	Kast	Continues explanation.
324	Chair Fisher	Questions how the level of mental health care relates to the issue of mental health parity.
329	Kast	States that within the Oregon Health Plan, mental health services have achieved parity. Continues review of the health plan.
346	Chair Fisher	Questions if parity were accepted, would it impact the Oregon Health Plan.
354	Kast	Responds affirmatively.
365	Sen. Duncan	Asks if an unemployed 32 year old male is automatically eligible for the Oregon Health Plan.
366	Kast	Notes that there are people who qualify and are not enrolled. Describes the three groups eligible for coverage: 1) the poor; 2) people who have no coverage and have the safety net of the public mental health system; and 3) people with commercial sponsorship, but their benefits are limited.
TAPE 3, A		
020	Sen. Castillo	Describes problem relating to funding.

031	Kast	Responds in agreement. Notes that changes are unpredictable.
036	Chair Fisher	Questions the timeline for mental health integration.
038	Kast	Responds that Fairview has little to do with mental health provisions of the Oregon Health Plan. Explains the Governor's Oversight Task Force and the report.
074	Chair Fisher	Closing comments and adjourns meeting at 10:00 AM.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Diana Bronson, Sandy Thiele-Cirka,
Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A ñ Senate Committee on Health and Human Services Proposed Committee Rules, 2 pp

B ñ Brochure, Gary Weeks, 15, pp