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SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

January 21, 1997 Hearing Room HR B

3:00PM Tapes 3 - 4

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Bill Fisher, Chair

Sen. Jeannette Hamby, Vice-Chair

Sen. Lenn Hannon

Sen. Marylin Shannon

Sen. Susan Castillo

Sen. Thomas Wilde

MEMBER EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT:

Anne E. Tweedt, Administrator

Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:

Informational Meeting

*** Overview of Adult and Family Services Division**

Sandie Hoback, Administrator

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 3, A		
005	Chair Fisher	Calls meeting to order at 3:08pm. Announces that Sen. Hannon had prior commitment and is excused.
The Amended Committee Rules are submitted for the record (EXHIBIT A).		
<u>INFORMATIONAL MEETING</u>		
009	Sandie Hoback	Administrator of Oregon Adult and Family Services program, Department of Human Resources. Outlines and discusses department's mission statement, goals and principles (EXHIBIT B) .
040	Hoback	Continues with AFS programs designed for self-sufficiency, refers to pages 3-4 of Exhibit B. Department strategy is to work individually with the family on how to become self-sufficient versus past procedure of what services are available and ones eligibility.
075	Hoback	Continues with the Oregon Child Support Program, during this biennium \$423 million in support payments is expected to serve 248,000 families. An increase of 30 percent over the collections of past biennium.
100	Hoback	Explains the Refugee Program a small federally funded program. Recent refugee population coming from Russia.
115	Chair Fisher	Questions the department's role in child support collections.
123	Hoback	Responds and explains the collection system. Discusses the federal changes regarding the \$50.00 pass-through that will be ending July 1, 1997.
133	Hoback	Explains that the department collects and redistributes the child support moneys even after the client is off of welfare, for the

		length of the child support obligation.
143	Chair Fisher	Questions if the department handles all child support obligations.
148	Hoback	Answers and explains the procedure. Addresses the changes that will occur in the child support arena this session.
160	Chair Fisher	Questions the department's authority on client contact after they are no longer on assistance.
175	Hoback	Explains the department's role is part of the support order.
182	Chair Fisher	Comments on the concerns and changes occurring within the child support area.
185	Hoback	Responds affirmatively
194	Vice- chair Hamby	Addresses the concern regarding the refugee program and the legal immigrants issue. Requests an explanation of the federal law regarding legal immigrant status.
211	Hoback	Invites Jim Neely, Deputy Administrator, to address this issue.
223	Jim Neely	Deputy Administrator of Adult and Family Services, explains the federal law surrounding immigration. Continues with explanation of state and federal benefits for immigrants. Continues with naturalization/citizenship explanation
260	Vice- chair Hamby	Addresses the federal requirements and the impact on the migrant worker population.
265	Neely	Comments on the federal government guidelines and regulations.
275	Sen. Castillo	Questions the departments role in addressing the void that will be created for this portion of the population.
290	Hoback	Responds affirmatively. Explains the different organizations involved with resolving this concern and the budget impact.
320	Hoback	Continues with program explanation, beginning with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Notes that between March 1994 and December 1996 welfare caseload has dropped 40 percent. Explained and outlined food stamp program, Emergency Assistance, Employment-Related Day Care, and eligibility for the Oregon Health Plan.
TAPE 4, A		
027	Hoback	Continues with smaller programs; overpayment recovery, third party recovery and personal liens programs.
061	Hoback	Presents the history of Oregon welfare reform; currently Oregon is viewed as a national success story and is considered a role model. Focuses on the evolution of the JOBS program.
		Continues with departmental approach with program

095	Hoback	development towards self-sufficiency, the JOBS+ pilot, July 1993.
120	Hoback	Continues presentation and comments on JOBS+, educational fund, and SB 1117. Expanding JOBS+ program statewide and created provisions allowing the clients receiving cash assistance could be required to participate in the job strategy.
140	Hoback	Continues discussion on Oregon Option, the state's relationship with the federal government and the federal block grant of August 1996. Defines the block grant and the department's strategy.
202	Hoback	Addresses the department's continued approach to self-sufficiency. States that all clients are required to participate in activities that lead to employment, and the three penalties attached to non-compliance.
244	Hoback	Continues presentation and explanation, refers to chart pg. 9 (Exhibit B). Focuses on the subsidizing breakdown between spendable income.
293	Chair Fisher	Comments on committee support of the JOBS+ program.
318	Hoback	Continues with detailed discussion of flow chart, pg. 10 (Exhibit B). With emphasis on self-sufficiency, client progression and department intervention strategies.
353	Hoback	Presentation continues with family self-sufficiency approach.
391	Hoback	Continues with presentation, attention given to page 13(Exhibit B), detailed description of JOBS+ program.
404	Hoback	Summarizes JOBS+ success between the agency and the private sector.
TAPE 3, B		
020	Hoback	Continues with the Teen Parenting program, 93 percent of clients are either in classes or have their diplomas and are continuing on. Continues with yearly JOBS placements, placements overall have increased 302 percent since FY 91-92. Currently exceeding 2,000 placements monthly.
061	Hoback	Continues with sustainable employment; 89 percent after an 18 month follow-up, have remained off of welfare. Refers to pg. 16 (Exhibit B).
070	Hoback	Comments on the employment related daycare.
101	Sen. Shannon	Questions daily savings of welfare money, is it \$100,000 each day.
137	Hoback	Responds to question by Sen. Shannon on daily savings, this figure was used in the calculations of dollars lost from federal level with relation to the block grant.
155	Sen.	Comments on where the money is and what is being done with

	Shannon	that money.
162	Hoback	Responds to comment by Sen. Shannon, refers to chart on the additional federal money and how Oregon is reinvesting into the welfare reform budget.
177	Sen. Castillo	Questions the data on pg. 16 and requests clarification on the 89 percent who after 18 months follow-up, remain off of welfare. Does this figure indicate sustained employment?
185	Hoback	Responds with an explanation of the data collection capabilities associated with employment retainment. The department is hoping to study the sustainability, wage growth, medical coverage and other pieces around employment.
193	Sen. Castillo	Comments that hard data would also indicate the program's success.
195	Anne Tweedt	Questions the total number of job placements, what makes up that total?
205	Hoback	Answers with clarification that those job placements statistics are absolute placements into unsubsidized employment. They are real jobs and real placements.
210	Hoback	Continues with cost per case, refers to pg. 18 (Exhibit B). Explains the minimal increases and factors that have contributed to these increases.
240	Chair Fisher	Comments on his experience with JOBS+ participants and their issues around substance abuse. Discusses the impact and incentive that JOBS+ and substance abuse treatment had on these individuals.
274	Hoback	Responds on the impact of substance abuse and domestic violence. Continues with the cost-benefit analysis of JOBS, refer to pg. 19 (Exhibit B).
305	Hoback	Continues with ADC caseload data, chart explanation, and reduction of grant costs during the 97-99 biennium.
365	Sen. Shannon	Questions if the savings can be directed towards college students health care.
385	Hoback	Responds that the Governor's budget will cover this expense from the cigarette tax.
380	Chair Fisher	Comments that this information is correct; questions the block grant timeline.
385	Hoback	Responds that the grant is for a seven-year period under the current authority, the block grant should be available to the state until 2002.
401	Chair Fisher	Comments and concerns surrounding this block grant. If the state is more efficient with the spending of this money, what will Oregon be facing at the end of 2002?
		Responds that the Department will work closely with the

415	Hoback	legislature to anticipate any changes that may occur between now and 2002.
424	Chair Fisher	Comments on the changes of the caseload structure and how those changes will effect the future of block grants.
TAPE 4, B		
010	Sen. Castillo	Requests clarification on what "reduced caseloads" means. Does this reflect that poverty is being reduced in Oregon?
020	Hoback	Responds that poverty rate in Oregon has stayed static. Explains that this strategy can be used in a broader way to assist individuals out of poverty, but these programs do not reach all Oregonians in need.
045	Chair Fisher	Comments on additional factors affecting the Oregon poverty level. Economy growth and lower unemployment and the caseload differences among the state's districts.
050	Chair Fisher	Questions the impact on DHR programs should the economy recess and the additional dollars are removed.
065	Hoback	Responds to the employment strategy and the correlation of the department's data.
082	Hoback	Continues presentation referring to pg. 24(Exhibit B); Oregon's welfare reform, incentive payments, teen pregnancy prevention and juvenile crime, pilot program electronic benefits transfer (EBT), pay after performance, and expanded up-front and post-employment services. Eight million federal dollars have been invested into eighty-one community projects throughout the state.
141	Chair Fisher	Questions the working partnership between AFS Division and Employment Department.
148	Hoback	Responds affirmatively. Continues presentation to include client characteristics and caseload data.
183	Hoback	Continues presentation directing AFS's concern to their seven legislative requests for this session. Directing committee's attention to Sen. Derfler's bill allowing information sharing between AFS and law enforcement agencies.
262	Chair Fisher	Comments directed to the committee's commitment in this process.
275	Hoback	Begins summarizing. Addressing budget highlights, focusing on reductions, 27 percent in state funds and 4 percent in total funds.
296	Hoback	Closes focusing on the following issues: --Federal legislation requires that able bodied individuals be employed 1/2 time to continue eligibility; Oregon's approach is to define who is exempt from this category and provide verification from a medical professional.

		--Legal immigrants; AFS's strategy will continue to cover these clients with TANF and cash assistance, but not with food stamps.
378	Chair Fisher	Closing comments. Adjourns meeting at 4:54pm.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

**Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Anne E. Tweedt,
Administrative Support Administrator**

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EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A - Amended Committee Rules, Staff, 2pp.

B - Adult and Family Services Program Outline, Hoback, 19pp.
