

These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation marks

report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

March 6, 1991Hearing Room D 1:00 p.m.Tapes 67 - 70

MEMBERS PRESENT:Rep. Mary Alice Ford, Chair Rep. Beverly Stein, Vice-Chair Rep. Jerry Barnes (arrived 1:12) Rep. Cedric Hayden (arrived 1:25) Rep. John Meek (arrived 1:10) Rep. Hedy Rijken (arrived 1:15) Rep. Jackie Taylor

STAFF PRESENT: Melanie Zermer, Committee Administrator Pamela Berger, Committee Assistant

MEASURES CONSIDERED: PUBLIC RESPONSE TO ADULT AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION'S PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS - INF.

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TAPE 67, SIDE A

010 CHAIR FORD: Calls the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., as a subcommittee.

INFORMATIONAL HEARING: PUBLIC RESPONSE TO ADULT AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION'S BUDGET Witnesses: JEANIE MEYER RODRIGUEZ, OPEU CARLA SPENCE, CASEWORKER, OPEU DONNA DERKINS, AFS EMPLOYEE LUCY LAHR, AFS EMPLOYEE ASA RENYOLDS, MTC & AFSD MARC JACOBSON, MTC TERESA BLAKE, AFS, OCCC LARRY BLAKE, AFS, OCCC SYLVIA MITCHELL, AFS, OCCC JANICE LOBATO, STEPS TO SUCCESS PROGRAM BUFFY FITZGERALD, FALLS CITY SCHOOL TEEN PARENT PROGRAM JEAN DuVOLL, FALLS CITY SCHOOL TEEN PARENT PROGRAM NANCY FURBY, STEPS TO SUCCESS PROGRAM DEANN CHANCE, STEPS TO SUCCESS PROGRAM

SUE SWANSON CHRISTINA RAY VAL BAILEY, TILLAMOOK COUNTY LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM BRENDA PURCELL, TILLAMOOK COUNTY LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM FELIPE MARTINEZ OLIVIA ESTRADA, WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION VICKY BROWN, LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM CRYSTAL MUELLER, TEEN PARENT PROGRAM SHAWN RICHARDSON, AFS CLIENT ELLEN DENNIS, OREGON HUMAN RESOURCES COALITION DIANE HOLLENBACK, STEPS TO SUCCESS PROGRAM CHRISTA SPRINKLE, STEPS TO SUCCESS PROGRAM VERONICA MUNKERS, LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM BOB CASTAGNA, OREGON CATHOLIC CONFERENCE JEANNE BENSON, OREGON CATHOLIC CONFERENCE TIM

HORNBECKER, OREGON CATHOLIC CONFERENCE DON ORR, DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TERESA WELTZ, STEPS TO SUCCESS PROGRAM VICKI WINTON, AFS CLIENT LATICIA SOLICE

Staff submits Major Budget Issues for the Adult and Family Services Division (EXHIBIT J).

020 DEANN CHANCE, STEPS TO SUCCESS PROGRAM: Testifies on the Steps to Success Program. - If it wasn't for the support from welfare (cash assistance, food stamps, child care, any breaking barriers for getting a job) I would be unemployed and homeless. - Also received help from The Employment Division and the Chamber of Commerce with job search, help with self-esteem, and how to prepare for interviews. - The long term benefits are great. - Welfare helped me for three short months so that I will never need public assistance again. - Currently, I am searching for employment.

(FULL COMMITTEE)

060 JANICE LOBATO, STEPS TO SUCCESS PROGRAM: Testifies on the Steps to Success Program. - Am a welfare mother. - The JOBS program was not able to help me, but they did refer me to the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) Program which provided me with self-confidence, clothing tips, and presenting myself in a professional manner. - As a result, I have been offered four excellent jobs - in one day! - Now I have a career and will never need welfare again. - Now I contribute to community which I was able to only draw from before.

- This also has set a good example for my children. - Sometimes people need a little help to get on their feet. - Creating tax paying citizens makes good sense. - You may not be able to afford to teach people the needed skills, but you really can't afford not to.

099 MELANIE ZERMER, COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATOR: Is the Steps to Success Program part of the NEW JOBS Program?

LOBATO: Yes.

ANNETTE HOLLAND, TEEN PARENT PROGRAM: Testifies on the Teen Parent Program. - Graduated from an alternative school. - Three years ago, never thought I would. - At 16 I was pregnant. - The alternative school has a nursery in the school. - Had low esteem, cared about my son's education, but not myself. - Received help from AFS, parents, and school. - Now I have a better outlook on life which is good for myself and my son. - I was helped through the tough times. - The nursery school providers were great. - Hope more teen mothers realize there is help out there for them. - More day care on campus is needed. - Future goals include being a social worker.

150 NANCY FURBY, STEPS TO SUCCESS PROGRAM: Testifies on the Steps to Success Program. - Currently unemployed due to illness. - HuSB and attends school. - Receive monthly medical benefits and food stamps. - ADC requires me to be in job search program. - It gives me a structured start for job search by practicing interviewing, re-writing resume, and by networking with new friends. - The Chamber of Commerce in Beaverton has been most helpful with job contacts.

188 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: What is the Chamber of Commerce's involvement with the Steps to Success Program?

FURBY: They provide classroom space, teach classes, provide speakers, and job contacts.

200 ELLEN DENNIS, CHAIR, OREGON HUMAN RIGHTS COALITION: Testifies on the effects the proposed budget cuts will have on human services. - Many rely on social service support. - Be glad there are programs that offer hope for individuals. - Many were never taught not to get into the welfare trap. - The trap may happen because of income, divorce, etc. - Poor people live in crisis management. - Attending schooling is added to their stress. - People living on welfare live at 51% federal poverty level (FPL). - If money was available to be bring us up to FPL, it would be great. - It is difficult getting off a system that you can't function on. - Poor people spend time struggling to keep their homes, get enough food and clothes, and keep their car running. Everything is a crisis. - Don't eliminate the emergency assistance program. - It is the one resource people depend on to keep above water. - The emergency assistance is available once a year. - It is used to keep from loosing house, heat the house, etc. - Cost of living increase, emergency assistance, and the medically needy program are so important. - Poor people need to learn how to set goals and how to deal with those goals; advise you to do the same.

370 VICKI WINTON, STEPS FOR SUCCESS PROGRAM: Testifies on the Steps to Success Program. - Am a single mother of two; been on welfare over four years. - Took business computer training, got certificate but they did not have placement program. - Caseworker got me into the Steps for Success Program. - Now I have more job leads, and even can get an interview. - Not yet employed, but know that I will.

TAPE 68, SIDE A

010 VICKIE BROWN, LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM: Testifies on the Life Skills Program. - Am 31, divorced, and a mother. - Had no direction in my life. - Life Skills taught me how to dress, how to interview, and to value myself.

030 CRYSTAL MULLER, TEEN PARENT PROGRAM: Testifies on the Life Skills Program. - Got pregnant in the 10th grade. - Wanted so much but had nothing to work with. - I was living on welfare taking care of my son. - Got into teen parent program, got GED, and enrolled in the Life Skills Program. - Am looking forward to the future.

042 SHAWN RICHARDSON: Testifies on the Life Skills Program. - Moved out of house at 15, parents were alcoholics, got married, had three kids, got divorced, and went on welfare. - Had nothing to do but sit in my house and raise the kids. - Did not know what to do with my life. - Enrolled in the Life Skills Program and learned how to dress for and speak during interviews. - Now getting ready to take GED and hopefully soon look for a job. - Now I know I want to be suicidal counselor.

085 DIANE HOLLENBACK, STEPS TO SUCCESS PROGRAM: Submits and reads written testimony on the Steps to Success Program (EXHIBIT A). - These positive changes in my life has effected everybody in my life.

136 CHRISTA SPRINKLE, COUNSELOR, STEPS TO SUCCESS PROGRAM: Testifies on the proposed budget cuts effecting the emergency assistance program. - Concerned about the emergency assistance possible cuts. - Several clients that received emergency assistance were in dangerous situations

(i.e. domestic violence). - Poor people spend a lot of money on heating bills because often low income housing is not insulated. - Many times they make the choice of paying the energy bill or the rent. - Cutting the emergency assistance is not a simple administrative cost. - It is hard for kids to concentrate when they know that mom was beaten up last night, or she can't pay the bills. - Cutting these programs effects our entire society. 350 - Emergency assistance is only available once a year.

CHAIR FORD: There once was a low income weatherization program that allowed

landlords to put in insulation.

SPRINKLE: Not sure if that is still in effect.

210 VERONICA MUNKERS, LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM: Testifies on the Life Skills Program. - Received good counseling, live for today and to the future; not in the past. - Getting married in two weeks, don't think I would have made that decision if it were not for the Life Skills Program; feel that I am somebody now and worthy of being with a good man.

240 TERESA WELTZ, LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM: Testifies on the Life Skills Program. - I am a person, not just a thing. - Now I can feel things and express my opinion. - Now I have a purpose in life. - Seen great improvements in myself as well as my son. - Want son to grow up in a healthy environment, not a bad one - like I did.

- Am enrolling in school. - Jobs council helped me to see that there are opportunities for me.

272 BOB CASTAGNA, OREGON CATHOLIC CONFERENCE: Introduces Jeanne Benson and Tim Hornbecker. - Urges the committee to restore funds for employment related day care, cost of living adjustment for welfare, and emergency assistance. - Cuts are being proposed for the poorest of the poor. - A family of three are getting only 80% of FPL.

CHAIR FORD: Getting mixed information about percentage of FPL received.

CASTAGNA: Some are referring only to cash assistance.

JEANNE BENSON, CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES: Submits and reads written testimony regarding the proposed budget cuts in the emergency assistance funds (EXHIBIT B).

376 TIM HORNBECKER, ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: Submits and reads written testimony regarding the proposed budget cuts in the emergency assistance budget cuts (EXHIBIT C). - Have not seen so many in need of food, in 15 years, as we are seeing now.

TAPE 67, SIDE B

- Difficult enough for recipients to live on current benefits. - Urges members to read the Task Force on Hunger report.

REPRESENTATIVE HAYDEN: Do you receive state funding?

HORNBECKER: We do not receive grants from the state.

BENSON: Our funding is from United Way, and others.

HORNBECKER: If the state cuts funds, we can't absorb the costs - it will increase the needs for our services. We are already over-budgeted; now using reserves.

REPRESENTATIVE HAYDEN: Comments on an idea to use state buildings, at night, to house to homeless.

BENSON: The City of Eugene sponsored a church shelter program which our clients are using. Church opens the doors for two weeks at a time. - It is difficult to find a place to live. - The average stay at a shelter is 30 days. They can stay for two months. - It usually takes two months to get the money together for housing. - The church shelter program has been quite successful.

070 DON ORR, DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT: Testifies on the elimination of miscellaneous medical services. - Home medical equipment includes oxygen, ventilators, and wheelchairs. - Concerned if there really will be a savings through this cut. - If durable medical equipment (DME) is taken away, the patient will end up needing care. - Also, the disease process is exacerbated without needed equipment. - DHR know this, yet they made no attempts to figure the higher costs for hospital treatment. - Oxygen services cost the state \$135 compared to a much higher hospital cost. - Where are the savings? - There will be no savings, only personal tragedy. 135 - Gives examples of other medical equipment that is proposed to be cut (i.e. walkers, wheelchairs, speech pathology).

160 REPRESENTATIVE MEEK: Asks staff to draft letter to DHR requesting how they intend to handle expected cost shift.

180 OLIVIA ESTRADA, WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION: Testifies on how the proposed budget cuts will effect the emergency assistance program. - Introduces Laticia Solice and Felipe Martinez. - Tell of Solice's experience of working in the fields, living in a migrant camp -- until its closure; tried to find housing. - HuSB and works at nursery for minimum wage. - HillSB oro apartments are too expensive, initial moving costs too much. - Last resources was to go to AFS's emergency assistance. - Also received assistance from Washington County Community Action. - They are a proud family that wants to make it on their own. - Need some assistance to become self-sufficient. - If it were not for this assistance, they would have been living in their car.

CHAIR FORD: Is any medical care provided?

MARTINEZ: Some medical services are available for the baby.

CHAIR FORD: Will the medically needy program cuts effect your services?

ESTRADA: Services will be available only for the baby only since he was born in the United State; maybe father's employment will offer insurance.

REPRESENTATIVE MEEK: Have services been sought through Central Contrail or

Virginia Garcia clinic?

ESTRADA: Virginia Garcia has offered emergency assistance for the baby.

REPRESENTATIVE MEEK: Do you have information on migrant day care or other services that will be cut in this proposal?

ESTRADA: Will provide that information at a later date.

320 MARTINEZ: I work with social programs in Washington County and it is the poorest county in the state. If these program are cut, many people will be which hurt.

363 JEANNIE MEYER RODRIGUEZ, OPEU: Testifies on the AFS workload. Heard a lot of wonderful success stories; good to know that programs are making a difference. - Need to remember there are so many people that are unserved by the system. - Here today to discuss employee turnover, burn-out, and work overload. - Discusses the NEW JOBS program and the caseworker being at the hub of that. - Not here to advocate cutting someone elses program so that we are not cut. - Want to say that we are not able to provide needed services with additional workload.

TAPE 68, SIDE B

023 CARLA SPENCE, CASEWORKER, OPEU: Submits and reads written testimony regarding AFS workload (EXHIBIT D). - Submits illustration of AFS programs (EXHIBIT E). - Asks members to be sensitive to the clients as well as the AFS employees.

100 REPRESENTATIVE STEIN: Does each worker need to understand eligibility?

SPENCE: Depends on the branch; smaller usually generic.

REPRESENTATIVE STEIN: Do you find it a problem finding money in the pots?

SPENCE: Not really; need to be careful how we spend our time in order to get maximum federal matches.

REPRESENTATIVE STEIN: Do you find there are needs that you cannot meet?

SPENCE: Daily; have specific rules for eligibility. Not enough drug and alcohol counseling (and other counseling) to get people to break out of bad cycles.

133 LUCY LAHR, AFS EMPLOYEE: Testifies on AFS employee workload. - Gives history of JOBS program. - We need to coordinate services.

200 CHAIR FORD: Wants recommendations, in writing, of what we can do for you to get rid of some of the paperwork as well as recommendations for coordination of services. Coordinating of services from the workers perspective, not administrators.

LAHR: An effective computer network would eliminate much of that.

233 CHAIR FORD: The committee would be happy to a draft letter to Kevin Concannon suggesting the formation of a committee to look into coordination of services.

236 DONNA DERKINS, AFS EMPLOYEE: Testifies on AFS employee workload. - Was a welfare client before becoming a AFS worker. - Through the WIN program I received training. - Don't have time to work with the people to help them out of the trap. - Too buy processing forms etc. - Not enough support staff at AFS. - Addresses task force report (Exhibit D). - Discusses staffing standards which are out dated. - There are no statewide staffing standards. - A lot of forms are required by the federal government. - If we had a good computer system with a dependable back up system, many forms could be eliminated.

TAPE 69, SIDE A

030 VAL BAILEY, TILLAMOOK COUNTY LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM: Tells of his benefits through the AFS JOBS program. - Was unemployed due to an job related injury. - The program raised my self-esteem. - Know now that I can find employment. - Am working on obtaining GED. - Then will go to employment training. - If this program is cut, I will end up back on welfare.

042 BRENDA PURCELL, TILLAMOOK COUNTY LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM: Tells benefits through the AFS JOBS Program. - Got GED through program, now in job search program. - If it weren't for this program, I would not be able to move forward in my life.

067 SUE DAWSON, TILLAMOOK COUNTY LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM: Tells benefits through the AFS JOBS Program. - Got GED during first week in program, enrolled in community college, on welfare 11 years. - Progress I have made has been a good influence on my 12 year old daughter; she starting to plan for her own career. - Wants to start own company to provide more jobs in the Tillamook county.

088 CHRISTINA RAY, TILLAMOOK COUNTY LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM: Tells benefits through the AFS JOBS Program. - Recently unemployed. - Life Skills helped me with my self-esteem. - Been dependent on others for most of my life. - Am seeking office work; eventually would like to be an illustrator for children's books.

110 ASA REYNOLDS, MTC/OCCC: Testifies on the benefits received through the AFS JOBS Program. - Father of eight children. - Unemployed insurance salesman. - English major at Brigham Young, but had children and was not able to teach - had to go to work before getting masters. - Divorce possible. - On and off the welfare system for 15 years. - Required to enroll in job search program. - Receiving education on lifestyles for men. - Been accepted at George Fox College to get masters degree in education. - Will be working in the insurance business to hold me over until I can teach. - Life looks good now for me and my family.

200 LARRY BLAKE, AFS CLIENT/OCCC: Submits and reads written testimony on the benefits received through the AFS JOBS Program (EXHIBIT G).

230 TERESA BLAKE, AFS CLIENT/OCCC: Submits and reads written testimony on the benefits received through the AFS JOBS Program (EXHIBIT H).

250 SYLVIA MITCHELL, AFS CLIENT/OCCC: Testifies on the benefits received through the AFS JOBS Program. - Am a welfare recipient. - We are reaching a crisis situation; even if I find employment, I will be living on the edge. - Mother of four with an associate degree. - Education is valuable to America. - Education was boring to me, which led to me being unproductive. - School system teaches one to read and write; but you need additional skills to work. - Never had direction or goal. - Upon entrance of a community college, I began to understand and comprehend. - Now have goals and sense of direction. - Been in domestic violence situations. - The system can change and improve. - Sees some problems in the welfare system but do believe in it. - Believes that education at the community level is a worthwhile investment but the reality of the economic situation is disheartening.

350 JEAN DuVOLL, FALLS CITY SCHOOL TEEN PARENT PROGRAM: Testifies on the teen parent program. - Would not have program without involvement from AFS. - Have 20 students with 14 babies in teen parent program. - Impressed with AFS staff caring about our students' future. - We offer GED, self-esteem classes, transportation, child development, food services, and parenting classes. - Am concerned that the budget cuts will remove the child care classes; making it difficult for the students to continue with their education. - Do receive community donations.

407 BUFFY FITZGERALD, FALL CITY SCHOOL SCHOOL TEEN PARENT PROGRAM: Testifies on teen parent program.

TAPE 70, SIDE A

- Receive parenting skills and communication skills. - Can relate to others involved in program. - Would not have been able to get GED without this program.

030 MARC JACOBSON, Submits and reads written testimony from CORNELIA JACOBSON, MTC (EXHIBIT F). - I am seeking employment and attending life skills classes.

090 CHAIR FORD: Submits and reads memo regarding prioritizing programs in view of Measure 5 (EXHIBIT I).

Submitted for the record:

_Testimony from Washington County Employment and Training Consortium (EXHIBIT K). _Testimony from Drake (EXHIBIT L). _Testimony from Kitajchuk (EXHIBIT M).

100 CHAIR FORD: Adjourns the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

Submitted by,

Reviewed by,

Pamela Berger

Melanie Zermer

EXHIBIT LOG: A - Measure 5 - Testimony - Hollenback - 2 pp. B - Measure

5 - Testimony - Benson - 1 p. C - Measure 5 - Testimony - Hornbecker - 2 pp. D - Measure 5 - Testimony - Spence - 41 pp. E - Measure 5 - Workload Chart - Spence - 1 p. F - Measure 5 - Testimony - Jacobson - 2 pp. G - Measure 5 - Testimony - L. Blake - 1 p. H - Measure 5 - Testimony - T. Blake - 1 p. I - Measure 5 - Memo - Staff - 2 pp. J - AFS Budget Issues - staff - K - Measure 5 - Testimony from Washington County Employment and Training Consortium - Staff - 1 p. L - Measure 5 - Testimony from Drake - Staff - 4 pp. M - Measure 5 - Testimony from Kitajchuk - Staff - 1 p.