

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

TO: Joint Budget Committee Members

FROM: Robin J. Smart, Joint Budget Committee Staff, 303-866-4955

SUBJECT: Staff Comebacks, Department of Human Services, Division of Child Welfare

DATE: February 1, 2016

As part of the S13 request, the Department is requesting a revision to letter note d in the Division of Child Welfare. This letter note is attached to the federal funds in the Training line item. The Department is requesting this revision to improve accuracy of federal funds received from Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.

The requested revision is as follows:

^d Of this amount, THE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO EXPEND ANY ADDITIONAL FEDERAL FUNDS FROM TITLE IV-E OR TITLE XX, OR PRIVATE FUNDING, THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT CHILD WELFARE TRAINING EFFORTS ~~\$2,909,521 shall be from Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, and \$255,716 shall be from the Title XX Social Services Block Grant.~~

Analysis

The existing letter note identifies the two types of federal funds that may be used to fund child welfare training academy activities. Funds from Title IV-E of the Social Security Act are identified for informational purposes only; however, pursuant to S.B. 15-234, Section 2 (1) (h) (I), the amount identified as Title XX of the Social Security Act indicates a limit on the amount of expenditures of these funds. Though Title IV-E spending is currently well below the amount identified in the Long Bill, this letter note should have an (I) notation after funds identified as Title IV-E funds. No (I) notation should be included after the amount identified as Title XX funds. Because of this, it is not appropriate to eliminate the specifically identified funding amounts and sources in this letter note.

The Department's requested revision also includes reference to private funding. Staff does not believe it is necessary to include a statement of authorization to use private funding to support child welfare training efforts in a letter note. Section 26-5-102 (2) (g) states that "the state department is authorized to expend any additional federal or private funding that may be available to support the training efforts" associated with child welfare reform.

Finally, the Department indicates that its request for the inclusion of language to allow authority to expend private funding on training efforts is based on the desire to charge non-child welfare professionals to attend training and use the facility. While statute authorizes the Department to expend private funding on training efforts, it does not clearly identify authority to charge fees nor

does it preclude the Department from charging training fees. In addition, though the Department reports that there is no private funding for the Training Academy at this time, spending authority for any collection of fees would be indicated in the Cash Funds column of the Long Bill and not in the Federal Funds column, therefore letter note d is not the appropriate place for language to be written that authorizes the spending of funds received through the collection of fees.

Recommendation

Staff recommends denial of the Department's request to change letter note "d" of the Long Bill to that indicated on page 1 of this memorandum. Staff recommends the addition of the (I) notation to the funds identified as Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. **Staff recommends that the letter note read:**

^d Of this amount, ~~\$2,909,521~~-\$2,909,521(I) shall be from Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, and \$255,716 shall be from the Title XX Social Services Block Grant.