

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
FY 2008-09 BUDGET HEARING**

**Executive Director's Office, Information Technology Services  
County Administration, Self Sufficiency, and Adult Assistance**

**Wednesday, December 19, 2007  
1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**1:30 – 1:40**

**Introductions and General Overview**

**1:40 – 2:20**

**Colorado Benefits Management System (Jointly with Health Care Policy and Financing)**

**General CBMS questions:**

1. Is the increase in DI #15 (\$2.8 million TANF-related changes to CBMS) a request for one-time funding?
2. Are there still problems at the county level regarding CBMS? What changes have the counties requested? Do these requested changes have merit? Have the departments requested funding to support the technical changes that the counties want to have made?
3. Has the dissolution of the Office of CBMS increased the cooperation between the two departments?
4. Why are the costs for the changes associated with S.B. 07-211 (in the Footnote #51 report) higher than was estimated in the Fiscal Note?
5. Can the departments identify CBMS change requests that may be exempt from the six percent General Fund limit?

**Questions regarding CBMS refinancing:**

6. When did the system change from development to operation?
7. Can the departments provide a probable time frame when new CBMS funding formula(s) will be approved?
8. Will it be possible to repay the federal CBMS funding over time, or must it be repaid in a single payment? Can the repayment take the form of reduced federal funding for a period of future time? Will we actually have to "cut a check"?

9. If the new formula is to be significantly delayed, is there any reason that funding splits for the current year cannot be adjusted using a better approximation of the new formula in order to reduce the future obligations? Is there any reason that such an approximation could not be used for funding splits for FY 2008-09?

**Questions regarding reprocurement of the maintenance and operations support contract:**

10. Please explain why the schedule for procuring a new contract has slipped relative to the schedule submitted with the request for RFP funding.
11. Please explain the RFP contractor's current role in the reprocurement process.
12. Have the departments obtained permission for the necessary extension of the current contract from the federal agencies?

**2:20 – 2:30**

**County Administration Workload Study (Jointly with Health Care Policy and Financing)**

13. Does the level of the departments' request for funding for the County Administration line items reflect the results of the workload study? If so, how were the study results applied? If not, why not?
14. If the study results are insufficient for objectively setting the funding level, do the departments anticipate any follow-on work to this study that would provide additional information that would allow the study results to serve as a basis for adjusting County Administration funding levels? Could the departments have managed the study differently in order to insure that the necessary information was collected?

**2:30 – 3:00**

**Departmental Goals and Objectives**

15. What are your department's principal goals and objectives? What are the metrics by which you measure success or failure?
16. Given the change in the Administration, have there been any changes to your department's principal goals and objectives since last year?
17. What progress did you make during the last year in achieving your goals?
18. How is the additional money provided to your department in FY 2007-08 being used to achieve your goals? What improvements is your department making in its outputs?
19. Please identify your department's 3 most effective programs and your 3 least effective programs. Explain why you identified them as such. Explain how your most effective programs further the department's goals.

20. Are there programs that your department is required to perform that do not further your department's goals or have outlived their usefulness? If so, what are they and by whom are they required? Why don't they further your department's goals?

### **Costs and savings from complying with specific bills and orders**

21. What are your department's anticipated costs, anticipated savings, and potential benefits from complying with Executive Order D 028 07, Authorizing Partnership Agreements with State Employees?
22. Provide an estimate of the costs your department will incur in FY 2007-08 in carrying out the provisions of H.B. 06S-1023. Provide an estimate of your department's savings in FY 2007-08 as a result of not providing services to individuals who are in the country illegally.

### **3:00 – 3:15**

### **County Contingency Study Group Proposal**

23. Are counties that would receive Tier 1 assistance the poorer counties?
24. Is the amount of assistance calculated ultimately based on assessed value in the county? If a county exempts property from taxes, will it affect the calculation? Is the calculation affected by any changes in TABOR restrictions that have been approved locally?
25. Please provide a list of the counties that currently receive County Contingency funds and a list of the counties that would probably receive funds under the proposed Property Tax Base Relief formulas, and the amount of funds that each would receive under the two plans.
26. Do some counties receive more funds under the proposed plan? Why are counties agreeing to this if it will reduce the amount that they will receive?
27. Does the Department still favor modifying the County Contingency formulas? Would the Department favor having the JBC carry a bill that would make such modifications? Are there alternate sponsors that the Department would prefer?
28. While the study group included representatives from a variety of types of counties (small, large, etc.), not all counties were directly involved. Does the Department believe that the unanimous approval of the group's final report represents wide-spread support among Colorado's 64 counties? If not, can the Department identify any particular groups of counties that are opposed to the proposed change?
29. Based on any feedback that has occurred since the final report was published, does the Department believe that there are modifications that need to be made to the legislation proposed in the final report? If so, what modifications?

**3:15 – 3:30**

**Colorado Works County Reserve Balances**

30. What are the purposes of county TANF reserves?
31. How much of the Colorado state EITC could be restored given current TANF actual spending levels? What other programs could be restored?
32. What factors have caused the large increases in county reserves in recent fiscal years? Does the Department anticipate that the counties will continue to grow their reserves rapidly?
33. What are the advantages and disadvantages of accumulating large TANF reserves? What are the advantages and disadvantages of accumulating large reserves at the county level rather than at the state level?
34. Does the Department believe that the State has an interest in considering county reserve balances in making block grant allocations?

**3:30 – 3:40**

**Promoting Responsible Fatherhood Grant questions**

35. How many years has this program been in operation? How does the Department measure the effectiveness of this program? Has the program been successful?
36. What is the current status of the program to intercept delinquent child support payments? Is the Department working with the Treasurer to implement this program?

**3:40 – 3:50**

**Supplemental Security Income Federal Maintenance of Effort**

37. How many other states are failing to meet their MOE requirements?
38. If the State continues to meet corrective actions, would the federal government be able to impose sanctions?
39. Why would it cost an extra \$10 million per year for the State to switch back to a pass-through MOE test?

**3:50 – 4:00**

**Aid to the Needy Disabled - State Only Overexpenditures**

40. Has the Department identified any problems with its methods for estimating future recoveries used to fund the AND-SO program? If so, does the Department believe those problems have been rectified?

41. Does the Department believe that delays in county processing are temporary, or are they part of a longer-term trend? Has the Department been able to identify the underlying causes that have led to county processing delays? If so, are those causes likely to affect programs other than AND-SO?

**4:00 – 4:15**

**Other Questions**

42. How was the increase for the Old Age Pension request calculated? What amount is due to increase in number of clients? What amount is for an inflation factor (COLA)? What inflation factor was used?
43. Why have so many staff at the Sol Vista facility been injured? What types of injury have been suffered? Are there ways to prevent these injuries?

**4:15 – 4:30**

**Questions regarding the food stamp fine:**

44. Can the Department provide a probable time frame when the food stamp case will go to trial, and when such a trial might conclude? Is there any reasonable possibility of reaching a settlement involving a reduced fine with the federal Department of Agriculture before the trial starts, or prior to the court rendering its verdict?
45. Will a district court decision be final, or are other appeals – by either the State or the federal government – possible? Can the departments make a reasonable estimate of when funding for the fine may be needed?
46. If the State prevails in court, to what degree is the food stamp fine likely to be reduced?