

This link includes the following documents:

1. Hearing agenda for the Department of Human Services, Division of Child Welfare and Division of Child Care, December 19, 2008 (pp. 2-6).
2. Hearing agenda for the Department of Human Services, Office of Operations and Services for People with Disabilities, December 1, 2008 (pp. 7-10).

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
(Divisions of Child Welfare and Child Care)
FY 2009-10 JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING AGENDA**

**Friday, December 19, 2008
10:00 am – 12:00 noon**

10:00-10:30 INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING COMMENTS FOR DIVISION OF CHILD WELFARE

10:30-11:40 QUESTIONS FOR THE DIVISION OF CHILD WELFARE

Questions Common to All Departments

1. Could the Division of Child Welfare shift to a four day work week that begins on Wednesday and ends on Saturday? If not, why not? If only a portion of the division can go to a four day week, what portion can and what portion cannot and why?
2. For General Fund decision items, justify why they must be funded in FY 2009-10 and why they cannot be postponed until FY 2010-11.

Note: Other common questions will be addressed during the Department of Human Services hearing for the Executive Director's Office (December 19, 2008, 1:30-5:00)

Federal Title IV-E Funding for Child Welfare Services

3. What is the future of federal Title IV-E funding for child welfare services? Discuss the revenue trends. Do you anticipate that this funding source will ultimately be eliminated? If so, when?

Decision Item #7 – Child Welfare Training Academy

[Background: Staff Briefing, December 10, 2008, pp. 16-17]

4. What is the training academy attempting to address? Aren't people who are hired trained social workers? Is there a lag time between when employees are hired and when they are trained? Is it a training resource issue?
5. Do you know how much turnover occurs in Colorado's child welfare system? How do training needs relate to turnover? Is turnover related to caseload and compensation, as well as burnout?
6. Is the training academy something that could be privatized? Why is the state in this business? Is there a better system for this training? Why or why not?

H.B. 08-1391 – Mental Health Pilot

[Background: Staff Briefing p. 18]

7. Please clarify the funding appropriated in FY 2008-09 and requested for FY 2009-10 for H.B. 08-1391 (Child Welfare Mental Health pilot). Do you expect to proceed with this program or not? Please explain your current plans.

Child Welfare Capped Allocations and Decision Item #10

[Background: Staff Briefing pp. 19-30]

County Expenditures/Over-Expenditures

8. Discuss county over-expenditures.
 - a) How do counties cover costs above their allocation from the State?
 - b) Why do you believe counties are overspending their capped allocations? Are any doing this on purpose to use up all TANF moneys?
 - c) Do over-expenditures reflect different benefits in different counties? Please provide background data.
 - d) Do child welfare expenditures reflect different income/poverty levels in different counties?
9. Is there a high correlation between poverty and child welfare cases? Please provide data on this. Have other states that have been successful in lowering the poverty rate decreased their child welfare caseload?

Child Welfare Outcomes

10. How do you measure child welfare outcomes? How do outcomes relate to how counties use services? How do outcomes and service patterns relate to county income-levels? Is there too much decentralization to determine whether the system is working?
11. Do we have, or are we developing, a statewide severity index for children in child welfare placement that might enable us to compare services, costs, and outcomes? Does the system need a standardized severity assessment, similar to that being adopted for developmental disability services?
12. If a child or adolescent for whom there has been a report of abuse or neglect is served through the TANF program, does anyone look to see if that was the appropriate action and that the child is safe?
13. Is one of the outcomes you measure family reunification? Please provide data on family reunification by county.

Child Welfare Allocations among Counties

14. Is there an issue of equity in the level of funding for different counties? Are we carrying on errors that were made 10 years ago? Are we just adding growth to a faulty base? Do

annual state increases just perpetuate an inequity? Why or why not?

15. How do county attitudes differ with respect to the levels of funding generated by the optimization model? Were all counties unhappy with the model or just those that were getting less?

Potential Reductions to FY 2008-09 Appropriations

16. What would be the impact of on counties of reducing the FY 2008-09 appropriation mid-year?

The Child Welfare Action Committee and Other Initiatives

[Background: Staff Briefing pp. 38-46]

17. Are child welfare program goals and/or strategies among counties inconsistent? How do we deal with inconsistent goals/strategies across counties? Should goals and/or strategies be driven at the state level rather than the county level?
18. . [Background: the Child Maltreatment and Fatality Report found that the Department's two different data bases did not match in records of child fatalities.] How can we figure out what the child welfare system needs when the system doesn't even reliably track relevant data, such as deaths of children in the system?

Medicaid Funding for Child Welfare Services

[Background: Staff Briefing pp. 31-37]

19. . Why are children not being served in Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs) and Therapeutic Residential Child Care Facilities (TRCCFs)? Does the department know the reason?
20. What is the Department hearing from schools about the impact of low TRCCF and PRTF utilization? Are counties shifting costs to schools because they are not providing sufficiently intensive residential services?
21. If the Medicaid PRTF and TRCCF costs were incorporated into Medicaid mental health capitation would the capitation contractors (the Behavioral Health Organizations) receive higher rates? Would such higher rates translate into better services for children in these kinds of placements?

11:40-11:50 INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING COMMENTS FOR DIVISION OF CHILD CARE

11:50-12:00 QUESTIONS FOR THE DIVISION OF CHILD CARE

Questions Common to All Departments

22. Could the Division of Child Care shift to a four day work week that begins on Wednesday and ends on Saturday? If not, why not? If only a portion of the division can go to a four day week, what portion can and what portion cannot and why?

SAO Performance Audit: Child Care Assistance Program

[Background: Staff Briefing pp. 60-65]

23. [Background: In response to many of the recommendations of the SAO Performance Audit of the Child Care Assistance Program, the Department indicated it would convene a work group to further examine the proposed change.] Is one of the things the work group will look at the “cliff effect” (*i.e.*, the fact that CCAP benefits suddenly disappear at a specified income level) and how this impacts families?

ADDENDUM: OTHER QUESTIONS FOR WHICH SOLELY WRITTEN RESPONSES ARE REQUESTED

1. [Background: The staff issue on Medicaid funding for Child Welfare Services (pp. 31-37) indicated that the State was under-utilizing the Children's Habilitation Residential Program Medicaid waiver (CHRP) and therefore failing to access federal funds that could support enhanced services for children with developmental disabilities.] Please explain the steps the Department plans to take to increase the use of CHRP.

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
(Services for People with Disabilities and Office of Operations)
FY 2009-10 JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING AGENDA**

**Monday, December 1, 2008
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm**

1:30-2:10 INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING COMMENTS

2:10-2:15 QUESTIONS COMMON TO ALL DEPARTMENTS

[Note: Most common hearing questions for this department will be addressed at the hearing covering the Department of Human Services Executive Director's Office on Friday, December 19, 2008]

1. Could programs in the Office of Operations or Services for People with Disabilities sections shift to a four day work week that begins on Wednesday and ends on Saturday? If not, why not? If only a portion of these programs can go to a four day week, what portion can and what portion cannot and why?

2:15-2:30 STATE AND VETERANS NURSING HOMES

2. Is the Veterans Nursing Home at Homelake or the State Nursing Home at Trinidad for sale? If so, please explain why.

2:30-3:00 SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Changes to Medicaid Waiver Program for People with Developmental Disabilities

3. Can you share with us the results of your analysis of the statewide impact of the new comprehensive services rates, and explain how the rates benefit the service community, consumers, and citizens of Colorado?
4. Why are we not adjusting rates regionally? What method did the Departments of Human Services and Health Care Policy and Financing use to compare and contrast the advantages and disadvantages of using an average rate across the state versus using geographic modifiers? What were the determining factors in deciding that the proposed methodology is more beneficial for Colorado and its citizens?
5. How good are the tools selected, including the Supports Intensity Scale, in evaluating individual's severity levels and needs? Describe the steps you are taking, or have taken, to determine how well the instruments classify individuals. How will the state address any problems in the tools? What is the appeals process if an individual/his or her advocates feel the individual's classification/funding level is not appropriate?

6. Discuss how Medicaid waiver changes have affected numbers of individuals served (see table on p. 23 of staff briefing document for reference). Who wasn't served? What do you see as the primary drivers for this? Are budget adjustments or internal department procedural changes needed to avoid the discrepancy between numbers served and numbers budgeted?
7. [Background: the briefing issue table on p. 25 and 26 reflects potential savings of \$9.2 million General Fund in FY 2008-09 and \$5.0 million General Fund in FY 2009-10 and future years related primarily to the structural impact of Medicaid waiver changes.] Are these reductions a loss to community centered boards? Does this reflect a real reduction, or just a delay in payment?
8. Please provide information, *e.g.*, a sample bill that shows how Community Centered Boards (CCBs) and other providers must claim Medicaid revenue. What items must be claimed in 15-minute-increments? Days? Trips? How complex is the process? To what extent is this level of detail federally mandated? What do you believe federal authorities hope to achieve from this? Is the state meeting the federal government's expectations?
9. Given that the last meeting of the CMS Waiver Steering Committee is December 9, 2008, how will all interested parties be involved on issues regarding services for those in the developmental disability community system? Specifically, what do you propose to ensure that an open dialogue continues between the Office of State Planning and Budgeting, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, the CCBs, and advocates, without burdening the Department of Human Services with the role of acting as the only conduit for information?
10. What is the status on incorporating services in the family home and Consumer Directed Attendant Support into the Medicaid waiver program?

3:00-3:15 BREAK

3:15-4:00 SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES [CONTINUED]

Waiting Lists for Developmental Disability Services

11. Discuss the trend in waiting lists/demand for services for people with developmental disabilities over the last ten years. Will the list continue growing at this rate in future years? Will it grow faster than population?
12. Discuss the percentage increase in the budget required to eliminate the waiting list, specifying both General Fund and total funds (*i.e.*, including anticipated federal Medicaid match).
13. Do funding projections incorporate capital costs associated with serving increased numbers of persons? Should they?
14. What supports exist for families that take care of family members at home? What happens if a family gives up and abandons a person who needs help?

15. Are federal authorities (the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services/CMS) pushing services in the family home nationally?
16. There are many issues surrounding the developmental disabilities community in Colorado: with the failure of Amendment 51, the waiting list for services remains; there are questions about the sustainability of the CCB system and the Medicaid Waiver system; to name just a few. In light of all these changes, how are the Departments of Human Services and Health Care Policy and Financing planning for the future overall needs of so many of Colorado's most vulnerable citizens?

Regional Centers for People with Developmental Disabilities and Decision Item #1

17. Please provide more detail on the types of persons in the regional centers who are driving the need for one-on-one care.
18. Why is there an increase in the number of people who require one-on-one care? Is this a national problem or only in Colorado?
19. Does the community have space for people who will be relocated from the regional centers?
20. When do you anticipate that the freeze on admissions can be lifted? Is it only when downsizing is completed?

Miscellaneous

21. Discuss the Department of Human Services involvement in the implementation of S.B. 06-128 (Pilot Program for Coordinated Care for People with a Disability - 25.5-6-111, C.R.S.). Please provide an update.

4:00-4:15 DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

22. Discuss Decision Item #19. What is the Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund? What is the revenue source and how are the moneys spent?
23. How was the RISE computer system supposed to work? What was it supposed to be used for? What is status of system now? How much money was used for parts of the system that do not function properly?
24. Please provide a white paper explaining the vocational rehabilitation program.

4:15-4:30 OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

Decision Item #5

25. Please explain the total anticipated costs of the request over four years. Will portions be eliminated after two years? Will the entire initiative be completed in four years? Please provide a list of what the department will actually purchase.

Decision Item #22

26. Please provide a list of the improvements that department proposes to make with these funds.