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## MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

**Date:** Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>  
**Time:** 1:00 – 4:00 PM  
**Location:** Department of Workforce Services  
Room 157-A  
1385 S. State Street  
Salt Lake City

**Conference Call-in Number: 1-866-456-0016**  
**Access Code: \*2658942\* (be sure to hit \* before and after code)**

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### DWS/Work Supports:

**1:00 Welcome and Introductions**  
Name change

**1:05 Follow-up items**

**I. Aging, disabled and LTC customer case closures and processing of applications. (Dave Ostrom)**

**II. E-Rep (Diane Lovell)**

Diane Lovell: Has it moved beyond American Fork? Majority of cases in AF. TANF, CHIP, PCN are all being entered. AF will have a full caseload in May.

Sheila Walsh-McDonald: I thought that all of AF was going live last October

Diane Lovell: We are implementing the new eligibility services along with ERep. They complement each other.

Sheila Walsh-McDonald: What has the experience been? Are there systemic issues.

DWS: At the end of the session, Kristen Cox has decided to be methodical. We told legislators that we are adding one program at a time. When there have been problems it has been errors with PACMIS. We have brought it up live and added one program at a time. Some of the long-term care and aging. They are creating a revised schedule.

**1:20 Legislative General Session Review (Mike Richardson)**

Interested in feedback about how DWS can improve for next session. It was a slim year legislation wise but big budget issues.

Melissa Smith: Appreciated information but would recommend sending an update when things change during the session.

Mike Richardson: Only pushed one bill Refugee Bill- a way to better support refugee community- it did pass

Family Employment Amendment- allowed a change FEP grants, reporting requirement to committees- did pass

HBI 48- did not pass but supported.

Watching immigration bills and impact on their clientele

Sheila Walsh-McDonald: Are you receiving any direction from the AG's office?

Mike Richardson: Not that I am aware of. We met with the sponsor to get an amendment done. The amendment would allow DWS to use their existing processes to check immigrants' status.

Karen Silver: When trying to get EA help, some people are having a hard time working with caseworkers not giving aid to any households with undocumented persons.

Diane Lovell: We are working on it. First date that they have received site specific info. They are trying to make sure staff are correctly informed.

Sheila Walsh-McDonald: I think it would be helpful when it comes to EA, we look at all of the income streaming into the incoming. I am interested in how you are interpreting the harboring piece. If you are knowingly giving assistance to an illegal alien that is contrary to the law.

Dianne: We can arrange to have staff come and explain what the eligibility requirements are.

Mike Richardson: Passed out list of study items on House Joint Resolution 21.

Lincoln Nehring: So much was about funding. What does this mean for the DWS?

Mike Richardson: We did not get the funding we wanted but the governor is aware. Big gaps in funding: GA, caseloads continue increasing....working on minimizing deficit. Kristen tried to hold clients harmless in the session. Did get the match for increasing caseloads.

Sheila Walsh-McDonald: The staff reduction proposal did not happen but how did affect staff morale.

Mike Richardson: I'm not really connected to the line staff but most people seem to be happy to be employed.

Karen Silver: It might be helpful during the interim to talk about the budget with advocates and have a discussion about potential legislative items.

## **1:50 American Recovery & Reinvestment Act – Stimulus Funding Overview & Impacts**

Mike Richardson: Have developed a group together to strategize on how to best use stimulus dollars. We are asking our partners to also talk about their funding- have been included in discussions. We will be laying out a strategy on April 9th. Stimulus money is not going to go as far as we would like and we are going to apply for some grants. Want to communicate to rural areas – through to bills on energy zones and transmission lines- to get tax credits for development.

Melissa Smith: Do you have any of the community action people at your meetings?

Mike Richardson: Not at this point.

Mike Richardson: We will have a draft tomorrow about all of the employment opportunities that DWS will support with stimulus dollars. The State Council Connection meetings are public meetings.

## **2:10 Worksites for Worksite Learning Participants (JoAnna McNamee)**

Joey is a state work sites program specialist. In these programs, work site learning, unpaid internship is a standard part of participation. With the recent increase in caseload they are having a hard time placing individuals in these work sites. Overview of work site learning program: unpaid internship, have a wide range of clients job-readiness, some paperwork involved when a site agrees to supervise and ongoing attendance tracking required by the site. Cannot fill with previous employees. People with criminal backgrounds are having a hard time finding placement.

Questions:

Hours? Varies. For TANF, 30 hours per week in activities

WTE: 40 hours per week

Penalties? Depends on why. If there is a medical reason why they cannot participate.

The site supervisor does not penalize but the counselor.

What if they cannot be placed? Will find other activities(TANF) until they can find

WTEs must be involved even prior to receiving aid.

How long? Average stay for TANF is 3 months per instance. 7 weeks is average internship stay but varies across the board. Could give a short term projects are great.

It would be helpful if you could provide more information about the felon program?

DWS does bond their customers. It is like an insurance policy for employers who might be hesitant to take someone with a criminal record. Can be insured for up to \$20,000 for anyone with a theft background.

Melissa Smith: will do a write up on this information and will send your contact info out.

## **2:20 New Eligibility Services Division (ESD) (Diane Lovell)**

Passed out factsheet on summer youth program. There will be some changes to the program. Would like the program to start June 1 and last day to be at the site is September 30. Can Jane Broadhead for information.

Up to this point eligibility has not been conducted the same at each site (5 sites in Utah) Decided to standardize- headed by John Pierpont. Looking at implementing it ahead of schedule- maybe

ready by June 22. Open to any comments or questions. This will help deliver services in a more efficient way.

The individuals involved in eligibility constitutes 50% of DWS's workforce.

### **Unemployment Insurance Issues: Melissa Smith**

In the stimulus package there were three components to the UI package. One of those components is the UI Modernization Package but has some strings attached: offer aid to part time workers, compelling family reasons, acquit to a company spouse (not recognized in Utah) HB428 was run by Mascaro. Only had two weeks on the bill..there was a lot of confusion and little time to educate. Governor in support of it. But did not pass. Legislators wary because it will increase employers taxes and may have programs that will continue to exist after the stimulus. One of the provisions of the UI said that there could be not sunset provision. DWS added some reporting provisions to make it more palatable.

Bill Starks: No sense of what the outcome of the study item will be. The tax increases for employers are many years out. So the benefits would have to be there for four years before the impact would be felt by the employers. Every state with a UI have to create an experience rate- applying additional taxes on employers with higher risk for laying off employees. Utah has one of the healthiest UI trust funds in the country- funding until 2012. We have a lower recency rate but pay better than other states. Women are disproportionately impacted by not adopting the three additional components to UI.

### **DOH/Health:**

#### **2:30 Welcome and Introductions**

#### **2:35 Department of Health's new Robert Wood Johnson Grant to Maximize Enrollment in CHIP and Medicaid (Nate Checketts)**

Emma Chicone from DOH: UT one of 8 states awarded this grant. \$1 mill over 4 years. Have possibility of drawing down federal \$ with this money – so could pull down \$5 mill over 4 years. To streamline application process, improve renewal process, integrate with schools on how they track the free and reduced lunch program, evaluate multi-cultural outreach. RWJ foundation has hired an outside agency (health management assoc) to work with the 8 states to do an assessment – will get a report in June and then outreach to get input to develop a plan for improving processes.

Lincoln – do you think MM is one you could come back to in a few months and report back.

Emma – absolutely. Definitely want to seek a lot of broad input after report comes in.

#### **2:50 Department of Health overview of legislative session (Michael Hales)**

Things could have been a lot worse had we not gotten the fed stimulus money. Because of requirements of stimulus pkg and funding, several eligibility groups were not cut (though were on cut proposal list) – open enrollment now for PCN, would not have gotten without fed dollars (would have been closed til June 2010). Baby your baby restored, changes for pregnant women on their assets and for people with disabilities and seniors were all set to be eliminated, and loss of eligibility for spenddowns because of potential cuts. All of these groups got ongoing money, so not

have to look at them next session. Reduced state budget to account for federal funds coming in, but only took it out in one-time \$. Structurally, budget in good shape. Did fund caseload gross (12-13% annualized growth over past year), but only to a degree, will need a supplemental to get through 2010. Did get funding for mandatory increases in rate that DOH has no control over – For pharmacy, fed qualified rural health centers, buy-in to Medicaid premiums.

Were some changes in benefits – Spec session – chiropractic, physical therapy, occup therapy, speech and audiology were eliminated. Effective July 1 occupational and physical therapy will be restored. Currently are offering adult dental for disabled and elderly – but one time \$, not get funded for next year. After June 30<sup>th</sup> only children and pregnant women won't get dental services. Going through and looking at previous years usage of emergency dental services that could result if not cover this – if can make case can save emergency room costs by offering limited dental program, may be able to get funding for this. – Do you have to have legisl approval for the emergency dental? Michael Hales says yes, because not want to make them think if they fund it themselves that they don't need the money.

Sheila – its very confusing for our providers as we carve out the rules. They aren't sure if Medicaid covers it or not.

MH – dentists are going to take a rate reduction that outweighs the increase with PDL. Looking at the various issues around this.

Did get the PDL provisions passed – should save \$1.4 million of general fund. If not passed, would have had to take that out of other optional programs. Was originally sleighted to go into effect July 1, so will implement it May 15<sup>th</sup>. Will send cards to Medicaid patients, providers and pharmacists letting them know they may have their RX switched May 15<sup>th</sup> unless meet an exception. Next month will send info about physical and occupational therapy.

Judi – Oregon had a very active consumer education campaign that helped people adjust to the PDL changes. Can you put something on the card to if have questions call UHPP?

MH – don't want to list on agency over another, will tell them to call their eligibility worker and then would create list of resources to give them, would include UHPP on it.

Kris Fawson – what happened with the FMAP, did it get plugged in where it is supposed to or was it used in other places. Fed stimulus and our regular federal increase we normally get.

MH – For current fed fiscal year (Oct – Sept) saw a drop in fed match rate by about 1%. Already absorbed in budget last session, but stimulus \$ basically gave it back. For FY10 it goes up by 5/100ths of a % point over what it would have been in FY08.

Stimulus money – hold harmless on the FMAP – has effect in current fiscal year, current match rate is less than FY08, so this helps with that. Not help FY10. Won't know what increased amount of match rate will be for a month from now. Legisl budgeted what the impact would be of all of these increases and reduced DOH and DHS funds proportional to new federal \$ coming in and took it out in one-time money and plugged holes in DOH and other budgets. So providers got one-time money to offset provider reimbursement drops.

Lincoln – how did your (MH) relationship with the advocates during the session and how can we help with PDL.

MH – PDL has to be the highlight of the relationship. Well-rounded approach about having reps of people and provider say that programs shouldn't be cut to legislature was good. Medicaid managed care contracts – advocates were really helpful with this. Appreciate discussion at MAC meeting about concerns for access as go forward on implementation. Did speak with Gail Rapp to see where we are on that – meeting with Melina to discuss their rates, but then going to put together meetings of providers, etc to work on this. Also saw advocates talking about importance of provider rates, great that it came from other than providers. PT/OT restoration was totally because of the advocates. Given the circumstances advocates were very effective. Given the range of topics and how much \$ coming back in, thinks was very effective.

Sheila – We worked really closely with fiscal analysts office re: ban on legal immigrant children – when verified there were sufficient funds in tobacco settlement to do that – is CHIP now totally funded from the tobacco settlement fund? MH doesn't think it passed. Recognize not getting payment until April this year, and legal dispute, was \$2.8 mill still sitting in that fund – comparable what need for legal dispute fund.

MH – haven't heard that yet. I know we have some GF money from previous years have nonlapsing authority on. Not sure how much swapping btwn one-time and general funds?

Judi – any extra funds in that account were to go to tobacco cessation according to Jonathan Ball. Thought CHIP was at the top of the list.

MH – Not sure where that settled out.

SWMcD – \$4 mill retained and no other funds put in and tobacco cessation retained all their \$. Gonna meet with Jonathan and figure out what the situation is here. Most CHIP \$ will be coming from the tobacco settlement fund – should be \$2.9 mill sitting in that fund right now.

Lincoln – going forward I know advocates will continue to bring things forward, but if DOH has issues they are looking at would really like to bring it to advocates if feel comfortable.

MH – yeah.

Lincoln – a little disappointed in emergency dental department and wasn't aware DOH was asking for that.

MH – was in the middle of the night the last day that did the asking. Never got any indication at any point where dental was going to be.

Judi – this was the first session dental was in Gov's budget and he was not fighting for it at all. Do you know why?

MH – I was working under same assumption cuz Gov always fights for it in the last days of the session. But who knows, there must have been too many issues for them to deal with to focus on that. No one came back to us before 6 pm last day of the session and told them this wouldn't be covered.

Advocate – next year's session is probably gonna be the same. We had no dialog, and we need more dialog. How do we present our issues and put our routine stuff on the table. How do we do it in a rational environment that isn't rational. They knew what they were doing, how do we get access.

Judi – how do we have a voice on these issues

MH – don't wait til the session. Look at where budget cuts are likely to be and start working on this now. Need an awareness of what the budget will look like. Start meeting with legislators now.

Judi – what about this – what if we made sure have MAC hearings and DOH hearings, but almost in reverse, talk about different targets/progs and come up with best/worst case scenario and come up with order of what to cut. (Reverse cut list) so is calm thinking going in to this.

MH – not a bad idea, but need to look at different tracks – exec, DOH, legisl. Getting things in Gov's budget in December cuz legislators ask if it's in the Gov's budget. Then at least have something DOH and Gov are aware of, then not starting from scratch in legislative session.

Kori – Medicaid restricted account – why was this not tapped?

MH – functionally how it works if have extra money at end of year, \$ goes into that account, in theory for economic downturns, but can't take it w/o appropriation, so not sure exactly what legislature was thinking, but prolly saving it for future. Did fund adult dental for current year with this. Thinks they took the remaining money from that account to prevent other cuts along the way.

Alan – have you received any guidance from CMS on rollout?

MH – not sure if have specific guidance then. Have \$17 mill for Medicaid/medicare projects. Hospital component, etc. Not have anything specific. Surprised got other guidance so quickly. April 14<sup>th</sup> – UT Medicaid partnership meeting from 12-1 at AUCH. Advocates and providers, review last year, set up a plan for next year.