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## MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

**Date:** Wednesday, August 5th  
**Time:** 1:00 – 2:30 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

#### 1:05 Follow-Up Items

1. General Assistance (Helen Thatcher)
  - a. How did the August 1st changes go?
2. Updates on Rulemaking? (Helen Thatcher, Suzan Pixton)
  - a. Advocates are wondering why DWS chose not to promulgate rules before sending letters out to GA participants notifying them of benefit termination as of July 31, 2009. The 6 Sigma process happened in May. DWS knew going into the 2009 legislative session that it was going to do something regarding GA eligibility. It seems like it had plenty of time to engage in a thoughtful rulemaking process, including notifying all GA participants (as interested parties) that there would be a rulemaking process and that they would have a chance to ask for a public hearing. (Karen Silver)
3. Legislative Priorities (Diane Lovell)
  - a. Draft Bill that implements changes in eligibility and for the other half restructure – how is this coming along?
4. Summer Internships and Child Care (Helen Thatcher)
  - a. Last month DWS said it was still looking at ways to alleviate the dilemma of child care for summer internships. It was asked previously what the reasons were for why DWS has decided not to provide child care for FEP families who may have wanted to participate in summer internships. Advocates feel they haven't really gotten an answer. How many FEP participants would have fit in the summer internship category, except for the fact that DWS denied child care. (Karen Silver)

- #### 1:20 TANF/ARRA Dollars for Emergency Rental Assistance? (Myla Dutton) (Debbie Her)
- There have been rumors that there are additional ARRA TANF dollars that will be given to the regional offices for Emergency Assistance. Would like more detail about it and information on how eligibility will be determined so can make referrals.

-There is also some confusion between HPRP dollars and EA – HPRP requires that you have exhausted all other options and so does EA – so how will this work?

**1:25 Emergency Transportation Funds (Myla Dutton) (Debbie Her)**

Mountainland region used to get EA and were able to use those funds to also buy bus tokens or gas for people to help them to get to work so they can keep their jobs. Helped around 260 people a month. This is now supposed to be handled through DWS offices. Some issues with this:

1. How is eligibility determined for this?
2. The people have to get the money on a horizon card – is DWS going to put \$1.00 or \$5.00 on the horizon card? It is estimated that 2/3rds of these people do not have Horizon cards.
3. With the horizon card, the people have to go to an ATM and then go catch bus or get gas – the idea behind this was that if someone comes a few hours before work and gets the assistance, they can still make it to work, but with all of the hoops now, it will be really hard for them to get quick emergency help and get to work on time.
4. How is this handled in the rest of state?

**1:35 Transient Assistance Fund (Myla Dutton) (Debbie Her)**

There is a Transient Assistance Fund set up for the state that helps people traveling through the state who have an emergency and need shelter (hotel), gas or food. They can get this call once they are in the state. In the Mountainland Region – Community Action has been providing 24 hour a day staff support for this program for the past 25 years.

1. Community Action cannot afford to provide the staffing and the funds – especially when there is a statewide fund just for this.
2. Now, with eRep these funds are no longer available to be reimbursed to the community agencies and with shortened hours – these services now are only available Monday – Thursday and the people have to come into DWS to get the benefit.
3. How is eligibility determined?
4. Does this have to go on a Horizon Card?
5. How is the rest of the state handling the Transient Assistance?
6. Can community agencies get reimbursed from the Transient Assistance fund some other way?

**1:45 TANF Time Limits and eRep (Karen Silver) (Helen Thatcher)**

Advocates have heard that getting eREP running is delaying the implementation of the (what I call) "lost the job" extension for people who have used up their 36 months. Are there other things DWS would like to do that it can't because of eREP capability at this time? If so, what? What are the costs involved?

**1:55 Child Care for Job Seekers (Lynette Rasmussen)**

General introduction to the new program.

**2:00 New Eligibility Services Division (John Pierpont)**

Questions: Is DWS planning to do a satisfaction survey to see how ESD is working for workers as well as applicants? It might be helpful.

**2:20 Legislative Priorities (Diane Lovell)**

**No Health Items this Month.**

**Topics Welcome!**

We find these meetings are most productive when topics are generated by the community. Please email ideas for topics to [melissa@utahcap.org](mailto:melissa@utahcap.org) or [lincoln@healthpolicyproject.org](mailto:lincoln@healthpolicyproject.org). Thanks.