

Approved Thomas F. Walker 7-88  
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

The meeting was called to order by Representative Thomas F. Walker at  
Chairperson

9:00 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on Wednesday, February 3, 1988 in room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Representative Peterson

Committee staff present:

Avis Swartzman - Revisor  
Mary Galligan - Legislative Research Department  
Carolyn Rampey - Legislative Research Department  
Robin Hunn - Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the committee:

J. Santford Duncan, Commissioner, Administrative Services

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

The minutes will stand approved at the end of the meeting if there are no corrections/additions.

Discussion began on what the members of the committee would like to see done in their study of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. The following topics were commented on and requested for study: working conditions within SRS, the mission of the department and how it is being performed, runaways and child support.

Commissioner Duncan began a short presentation and answered several questions. He responded to a query about situations being taken care of in-house by saying that many of the issues that come up in the department cannot be handled without legislation; this is the only way in which some issues can be addressed. This was the reason for the methodology of the memos contained in the packet that was distributed to each member of the committee. An umbrella agency gives the 'big picture'. What needs to be shown is how things work within the bureaucracy; the intimate details that have to be dealt with.

One of the members commented on a forum held recently where people asked many questions that dealt with procedural problems within the system; why are some forms so hard to understand.

Mr. Duncan commented on a question asked about child support. This division has just been automated and reorganized. The concept of family security is being accented. The area of child support will be 'lean and mean'; those avoiding paying will be found and made to pay. His department has asked for and received permission for 88.5 more positions in the child enforcement services area.

Mr. Duncan said the head of the department is Winston Barton. There are seven services within the department. They are: Mental Health and Retardation Services, Adult Services, Youth Services, Income Maintenance and Medical Services, Rehabilitation Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services and Administrative Services.

Mr. Duncan is the head of Administrative Services; Andrew O'Donovan the Commissioner of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Bob Barnum is currently Youth Services Commissioner. Steve Schffelbein is the acting commissioner of Rehabilitation Services. Income Maintenance and Medical Services and Mental Health and Retardation Services are interviewing for commissioners and the positions will soon be filled. Mr. Duncan defined what each of these services does and the part played within the department.

More specific requests were made to Mr. Duncan such as the gap between the juvenile delinquent and the juvenile who needs specific care but has not broken the law. Another member commented that the requests seem to be focusing on youth. Another member wanted to see an in-depth overview of each service within the department, whether it be done by subcommittee or the committee as a whole.

The Chairman responded that he would like to see the entire committee involved in the SRS total picture. No particular requests will be made to Post Audit unless something specific is requested by someone. It is important for the committee as a whole to get a feel for the department.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION,  
room 522-S, Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m. ~~XXXX~~ on Wednesday, February 3, 1988.

Mr. Duncan said all the commissioners plus key line staff will be made available for the committee. In reply to the Chairman's statement that he likes to keep the meetings time frame at an hour, Mr. Duncan replied that each commissioner would probably need at least one hour to make the particular presentation.

One of the members asked Mr. Duncan to let the commissioners know to tell the committee what type legislation they think would be helpful to address their particular situation. Mr. Duncan said he would and there would also be a briefing of the legislation that the department has asked for this session.

Robin Hunn, Legislative Research Department, will give an overview the next time the committee takes up SRS.

Mr. Duncan said he was sure the Secretary of SRS would be happy to visit the committee.

One of the members commented since these are people issues and problems, care must be taken to look at the process and not get involved in 'gripe sessions'.

As there were no further comments, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

