

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held in Room 1E at the Legislative Office Building, on May 7, 2015

PRESENT: Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman
Deputy Comptroller Martha Carlson
Deputy Treasurer Christine Shaw
Senator Beth Bye
Senator Robert Kane
Representative Toni Walker
Representative Melissa Ziobron
Deputy Secretary Susan Weisselberg
Office of Policy and Management, Finance Advisory Committee Clerk

Lieutenant Governor Wyman called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

The minutes of the April 2, 2015 meeting were adopted.

The following new transactions were considered by the committee:

FAC 2015-07 - Department of Administrative Services. Transfer of \$1,532,625 from the Personal Services and Rents and Moving accounts to the State Insurance and Risk Management account to cover claim settlements.

The item was unanimously passed.

FAC 2015-08 - Department of Motor Vehicles. Transfer of \$635,000 from the Personal Services account to the Other Expenses account to cover an insurance deductible and costs to implement the driver-only program.

Senator Kane asked about the \$500,000 driver-only program component of the transfer. Allyson Bruce, Chief Fiscal and Administrative Officer for the agency, answered that this sum would enable modification of the licensing and online testing system to support the driver-only program. Sen. Kane asked why the expense was not budgeted, and Ms. Bruce responded that the expense was anticipated and that the agency planned for the FAC transfer accordingly.

With regard to the balance of the transfer amount, Representative Walker asked about the insurance deductible costs and the estimated cost of the recent water main break at the agency's Wethersfield location. Ms. Bruce responded that the cost is anticipated to be \$1.1 million. Rep. Walker asked whether the cost would be covered through the Insurance and Risk Management account; Ms. Bruce responded that the deductible was not covered by Insurance and Risk Management.

The item passed, with Senator Kane and Representative Ziobron voting no.

FAC 2015-09 – Department of Insurance. Transfer of \$127,500 from the Personal Services account to the Other Expenses account to support operating expenses through the end of the fiscal year.

Representative Ziobron asked whether the property tax component of the transaction was covered under the agency's lease. Deputy Commissioner Thompson noted that the terms of the lease require the agency to pay a share of the property taxes.

The item was unanimously passed.

FAC 2015-10 – Department of Agriculture. Transfer of \$300,000 from the Personal Services account to Other Expenses to cover unexpected animal care costs.

Representative Ziobron asked about the reasons for the shortfall. Commissioner Reviczky explained the circumstances that led to the overrun. A discussion of the health of the animals and the plan for their disposition followed.

Representative Ziobron asked whether this transaction would impact the agency's ability to meet payroll. The Commissioner responded that the agency would not need additional funding, and the Lieutenant Governor clarified that the deficiency bill would be updated to reflect a shift of the shortfall from Other Expenses to Personal Services after this transfer.

The item passed, with Representative Ziobron voting no.

FAC 2015-11 – Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Transfer of \$103,650 from the Personal Services account to the Other Expenses account to cover increased costs of autopsies and examinations.

The item was unanimously passed.

FAC 2015-12 – Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Transfer of \$4,000,000 from the TBI Community Services and Home and Community Based Services accounts to the Workers' Compensation Claims, Professional Services and Other Expenses accounts to cover various operating needs.

In response to a question from Senator Kane regarding the TBI Community Services account, Paul DiLeo, the agency's Chief Operating Officer, explained that the surplus was attributable to a higher number of individuals transitioning to waiver services than expected. Senator Kane asked for clarification as to whether there was still a waiting list. Mr. DiLeo responded that he would need to follow up.

Senator Kane also asked for information about increased security costs. Mr. DiLeo replied that front door security improvements were made at several facilities, including metal detectors at the Greater Bridgeport Mental Health Center and cameras at Connecticut Valley Hospital.

Senator Bye asked for a clarification of Professional Services funding and the role of psychiatrists. Mr. DiLeo explained that psychiatrists serve as DMHAS facility chief clinical officers with the primary responsibility of prescribing. He further described the departments' challenges in recruiting psychiatrists, which forces the agency to depend on the costly alternative of locum tenens and thus the shortfall that is the subject of this transfer. Mr. DiLeo described the agency's efforts to hire psychiatrists in hopes of decreasing dependence on locum tenens. Senator Bye asked whether these costs were for direct care. Mr. DiLeo confirmed they are, specifically for DMHAS-run facilities.

Representative Walker asked whether there was any connection to last year's shift to fee for service and corresponding reduction of grants. Mr. DiLeo explained that there was no overlap except insofar as the pool of available psychiatrists is finite. Representative Walker asked whether the shortfall would need to be addressed in the FY 2016-2017 budget. Mr. DiLeo noted that based on the hiring trend, the burden to the Professional Services account will be reduced as the agency decreases its dependence on locum tenens.

The item passed, with Senator Kane voting no.

FAC 2015-13 – Department of Transportation. Transfer of \$1,000,000 from the Bus Operations account to the Other Expenses account to cover winter weather costs not addressed through previous FAC action.

Representative Ziobron asked about the surplus in Bus Operations. Robert Card, Bureau Chief of Finance and Administration, noted that the surplus was a result of generally favorable trends and were not the result of any service or operating reductions.

The item was unanimously passed.

FAC 2015-14 – Department of Social Services. Transfer of \$4,300,000 from the Aid to the Disabled and Temporary Assistance to Families accounts to the State Administered General Assistance account to cover enrollment-related costs.

Representative Ziobron noted that Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) enrollment is dropping but State Administered General Assistance (SAGA) enrollment is rising, and asked whether fewer people are in need of temporary assistance and more need permanent assistance. Michael Gilbert, Chief Fiscal Officer, responded that TFA and SAGA are two distinct programs with two different populations.

Representative Walker inquired whether the decline in TFA-eligible clients was the result of long wait times and application processing delays rather than actual caseload declines. Mr. Gilbert responded that TFA pending cases are very low and the wait times are not a contributor to the lower caseload. Representative Walker asked why SAGA caseloads are increasing. Mr. Gilbert noted that SAGA caseloads have been increasing over the last few years, perhaps

because the HUSKY D program is drawing more applicants into the system who may have not had connections to DSS before.

The item was unanimously passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan Weisselberg", written in black ink.

Susan Weisselberg
Clerk