

# LCPD Meeting 11/7/13

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Attendees: Sign in sheet available upon request

Kris Fawson called for introductions from those in attendance.

## **Announcements**

- Please go to the LCPD website [www.lcpdut.org](http://www.lcpdut.org) and complete a membership application and/or join us on FaceBook at: Utah Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities.
- Utahns for the Medicaid Expansion will hold a rally at the Capitol Rotunda on Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm. They invite you to bring posters asking Governor Herbert to support the expansion.
- LCPD reception with Legislators Thursday, February 6, 2014, Capitol Rotunda 4:00-5:45 pm

## **Special Education – Legislative Priorities and Building Blocks, Martell Menlove**

Martell Menlove thanked LCPD for asking him to present to the Coalition, handed out a one page summary of the state budget priorities from the Utah State Board of Education. Also included in the handout:

- A. Legislative Expectation total funding of \$143 million broken down below:
  1. Student growth – actual number not yet available and estimated with current calculations for full funding of actual growth amount \$70 million.
  2. Increase in value of WPU - Funding of growth in all line items with student relations – 2.7% increase total of \$73 million

Amounts requested really do not move anything forward, simply maintains current programs.

- B. Ongoing Funding requests total – \$45.1 million
  1. Middle & High school Math initiative – 90% proficiency 8<sup>th</sup> grade - \$5 million – Comprehensive professional learning initiative for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade math teachers – 5 days digitally delivered materials.

2. Early Intervention initiatives – 90% 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading proficiency - \$20 million – improve K-3 reading proficiency, expand early intervention programs, targeted extended day, targeted voluntary pre-school (bill pre-school and extended kindergarten)
3. USOE/State Board staffing/program needs - \$2.1 million – Assure confidentiality of student and teacher data, meet increased audit and performance measures accountability; restore staff reductions and new fiscal management program.
4. Graduation initiative 90% graduation rate - \$8 million – breakdown of total includes: \$4 million reduce student to counselor ratio (1:350), \$1 million innovative graduation programs, \$3 million student advocates
5. School Climate and student support - \$2 million – USOE student services, suicide prevention, bullying prevention
6. Targeted professional learning - \$5 million – broken down includes: \$1.5 million Utah Core Academy and \$3.5 million grants to districts and charters for targeted professional learning
7. Concurrent Enrollment Initiative - \$1.5 million – provide opportunities for students, statewide to earn an Associates Degree while in high school.
8. High Cost Special Education students - \$1.5 million – assure adequate funding for the high-cost special education funding pool (High cost line item students that currently exceed \$15,000 WPU)

C. One-Time Funding requests total - \$303,550,000

1. School improvement initiative - \$10 million – grants to schools based on school improvement plans designed to increase school grade
2. 1 to 1 device initiative - \$50 million – provide grants to districts and charters for devices, infrastructure and technical support to fully implement technology support to fully implement technology-based learning
3. Educator Evaluation Implementation - \$450,000 – Professional learning for building administrators to implement educator evaluations with fidelity
4. Innovative transportation - \$20 million – grants to districts and charters to address efficient and clean transportation
5. Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts - \$5 million – Expand BTSA program to additional schools

6. Teacher Supplies - \$5 million – continue to reimburse individual teachers for out-of-pocket funded classroom supplies
7. New State Office of Education Building - \$25 million – replace USOE building

Martell took questions from those present or on the phone:

- School grading system similarities to Florida but Utah does not have a formal mechanism or state funded way to improve grades. Funding requested to create a state resource also discussed possible match of public funds with state funds.
- Ongoing #8 request historically has been the same with the USBE and has not been funded. The number used to match federal funding does not meet actual need. Additional information and education with legislators on their students need is ongoing as well.
- Sequestration- 5.1% overall cut from special education. The State Board of Education cannot identify where districts and charters decided to make choices and implement cuts. We do anticipate seeing harder cuts next year due to the forward based funding. Health and accident insurance benefits were hit harder, meaning hiring of 2 people to each work 26 hours versus 1 person at 40 hours per week.

#### **USOR – Legislative Priorities and Building Blocks, Russ Thelin**

Russ Thelin introduced Kyle Walker, the new Division Director with USOR. Russ handed out a one page summary of the building block priorities/requests from the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation, total requests just under \$2.5 million between ongoing and one-time, included in the handout:

1. DRS (Vocational Rehabilitation)
  - a. \$666,000 Ongoing – VR Direct Client Services and Staffing Needs – request is for \$103,000 ongoing to replace last years one-time allocation for two para-professional position, \$103,000 for an additional two para-professional positions and \$406,000 for direct client services that have grown with the increase in clients served. (Rationale also included growth seen in VR over the past 4 years, Rehab Tech allowing 8 hours of VR face to face time)
  - b. \$1 million One-Time – Vocational Rehabilitation Direct Client Services – due to the significant increase in the number of clients served, the agency has reached a critical mass for resources to need in providing required direct client services. A one-time allocation will provide the ability to meet needs without establishing a waiting list (order of selection) in the coming year, and position the agency against such a decision going forward.

2. DRS (Independent Living)

- a. \$250,000 Ongoing – Independent Living Center Services – assist the six centers for independent living to continue their efforts to serve underserved populations, including youth with disabilities and individuals in nursing homes desiring to transition out. The services also include efforts to divert individuals from being placed in nursing homes or other institutions. \$250,000 of the pass through funds is needed and allocated to the centers by formula.
- b. \$500,000 One-Time – Independent Living Assistive Technology Program – There is currently (9/10/2013) a waiting list of 64 individuals with disabilities needing \$150,000 in AT devices. By the time the next state fiscal year arrives it is anticipated that there will be an additional 191 individuals with disabilities needing approximately \$350,000 worth of AT devices.

3. DSDHH - \$81,694 – Caseworker Specialist II – Individuals receiving counseling/case management services in Southern Utah went from 217 to 387 in 2013. A caseworker specialist II (\$65,134) is needed to keep up with this growth, additional space for this position (\$16,560 per year).

Russ took questions from those present or on the phone:

- In the #1 request it does include transition age students, some districts are running pilot programs and we are serving many transition age individuals. If programs are successful we will look at duplicating around the state.
- How do we get the message of what VR is and does across? Educate on the role of VR profession, talk about the specialty of VR, talk about the impact, both quality of life and economic impact. VR is not only cost neutral, generates return and revenue, meaningful employment.
- Kyle Walker highlighted a Journal article on the Economic Impact of Utah’s VR Program, published in the Journal of Disability Policy Studies.
- Average VR Counselor has a caseload of 230 individuals.

**USDB – Legislative Priorities and Building Blocks, Joel Coleman**

Joel Coleman, Utah School for Deaf and the Blind apologized for not having a handout and went over the building blocks and legislative priorities. Joel was unable to give exact dollar amounts at this time but did highlight each priority as follows:

1. Step and lane increase – every year as required by law
2. 5 additional professional development days

3. 5 additional teaching positions in outlying areas – positions are harder to fill and sometimes require additional incentives – scholarship programs
4. Additional transportation funding – legislature requires (following last year request to bring it in house) a cost benefit analysis. USDB has a new CFO, Scott Jones and we do have a couple of weeks to prepare.
5. Updating IT infrastructure and database – a new director of IT as well. Currently database and infrastructure are non-existent.

Two other projects that are not on legislative priority but very passionate about are:

1. Building of new Salt Lake Center – Steve Noyce former superintendent had plans and collected donations through foundations, but Joel decided to go a different direction, there is a new Director at DCFM and two days ago announced yes to a new USDB building, set to open in 2016. It will be located where the JMS building is, revising plans from the past to create a multi-purpose multi-use building.
2. Professional Management into School Trust Fund – set up to include State Deaf State Blind Trust with non-political management.

Discussed the contract funding in districts success in some places and how it works – current 3% rule working group to convene in the spring. USDB has reached out to districts and offer professional development to schools.

### **Future Trainings**

What kinds of trainings would the Coalition members like?

- December meeting we will look at upcoming legislation. Can discuss the legislative process, maybe have Tim Chambliss come to December meeting to present.
- Legislative mentor program during the session, the best way to learn is to show up, would require a level of commitment? During the session it is too late, create an annual strategy.
- How to communicate with legislators – effectively craft email so it is looked at.
- ABC training – right before the session – intro to the hill – basics
- Pre-legislative Coalition type training

Reminder: Next LCPD meeting, Thursday, December 5, 2013, from 12:30-2:00 pm, Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired.