

SUBCOMMITTEE #3: Health & Human Services

Chair, Senator Holly J. Mitchell
Senator Jeff Stone, Pharm. D.
Senator William W. Monning



May 7, 2015
9:30 a.m., or Upon Adjournment of Session
Room 4203, State Capitol

Part B

Staff: Samantha Lui

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PLEASE NOTE: Only those items contained in this agenda will be discussed at this hearing. Please see the Senate Daily File for dates and times of subsequent hearings. Issues will be discussed in the order noted in the Agenda unless otherwise directed by the Chair. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals who, because of a disability, need special assistance to attend or participate in a Senate Committee hearing, or in connection with other Senate services, may request assistance at the Senate Rules Committee, 1020 N Street, Suite 255 or by calling 916-651-1505. Requests should be made one week in advance whenever possible. Thank you.

ISSUES RECOMMENDED FOR VOTE ONLY**4185 California Senior Legislature****1. TBL 606: Successor Fund Designation**

The Administration proposes trailer bill language to establish the California Senior Legislature Fund as the successor fund of the California Fund for Senior Citizens. Because the Fund for Senior Citizens did not meet the minimum contribution amount of \$250,000, it fell off the tax check-off for the 2014 tax return. As of March 3, 2015, there is \$343,000 in the Surplus Money Investment Fund. Senior Legislature members felt that there may have been confusion as to which senior fund to donate, creating the decline in donations. The Administration proposes establishing and renaming the successor fund with a title that is identifiable with the organization's name, and authorizing the ability to roll-in the current amount in the Surplus Money Investment Fund.

Recommendation. Approve. The subcommittee heard and discussed this item during its March 26, 2015 hearing. No concerns have been raised.

5160 Department of Rehabilitation**1. BCP #1: Statewide Funding of Social Security Beneficiary Work Incentives Planners**

The department requests \$3.11 million in federal fund authority for 31 ongoing full-time permanent positions (Work Incentives Planners, or WIPs). The WIPs will provide financial literacy and benefits planning services to eligible consumers who receive Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSI/SSDI) benefits. The Social Security Administration (SSA) pays DOR for the reasonable costs of services provided to SSI/SSDI consumers, if those services result in the consumer achieving work at specified earnings level, known as the Substantial Gainful Activity. The budget assumes that the 31 WIPs will generate the level of SSA reimbursements to fund these positions.

During the March 12, 2015, hearing, the subcommittee asked how the department plans to accommodate the positions if projected federal Social Security Administration (SSA) reimbursements do not come to fruition. The department noted its commitment to fund independent living centers and interprets ILC funding and personnel funding as separate and distinct, even though these positions and ILCs both receive funding from SSA reimbursements. Instead, the department committed to living within its budget at the department level.

Recommendation. Approve; adopt placeholder provisional budget bill language. Staff recommends adopting provisional budget bill language that authorizes the department to fund up to 31 positions, contingent on the available federal funding for the positions. The subcommittee also may wish to have the Department of Rehabilitation, at next year's legislative hearing, report on the status of hiring the 31 Work Incentive Planner positions, as well as the success of drawing down federal Social Security reimbursements. This subcommittee, as well as the Assembly Subcommittee No. 1 on Health and Human Services, may wish to ask the department to conduct a workgroup comprised of stakeholders, recipients, and legislative staff before October 2015, in order to evaluate how additional funding drawn down by the WIPs can be utilized to increase funding to the community.

5180 Department of Social Services – Child Welfare Services**1. TBL 602: Approved Relative Caregiver Funding Options Program Clean-Up**

The Administration proposes trailer bill language to “administratively streamline the application process for grant payments, maximize federal funding, and ensure that families do not experience a break in services or payment.” Specifically, the language includes the following provisions:

1. Foster children and non-minor dependents (NMDs), who are eligible to receive an approved relative caregiver (ARC) payment will be placed into a separate assistance unit.
2. The CalWORKs portion of the payment will be the exempt maximum aid payment for an assistance unit of one.
3. If the approved relative caregiver is needy, his or her assistance unit size will include the number of ARC children, or NMDs, only for purposes of determining program income and eligibility of the CalWORKs assistance unit. For purposes of calculating the grant amount for the needy caregiver, the ARC child and NMD is excluded.
4. Foster care resource limits will be used to determine eligibility of an ARC child and NMD.
5. Overpayments will be collected pursuant to existing foster care program requirements.
6. County of court jurisdiction has payment responsibility for ARC children and NMDs.
7. An approved relative caregiver is exempt from Statewide Fingerprint Imaging Systems, reporting, immunization, and other CalWORKs requirements.
8. The General Fund (GF) appropriation must be increased annually by an amount greater than the CNI to ensure that the caregiver payments get a full California Necessities Index (CNI) adjustment.
9. The GF portion of the ARC payment may be countable towards maintenance-of-effort (MOE), only if the GF is not counted as MOE for another purpose.

Recommendation. Approve and adopt placeholder trailer bill language. The subcommittee heard and discussed this item during its April 9, 2015 hearing.

2. BCP #50: AB 1978 Child Welfare Social Worker Empowerment and Foster Child Protection Act

The Administration requests one staff services manager and associated operating expenses and equipment to implement a confidential process whereby child welfare social workers can inform the Department of Social Services (DSS) of local policies, procedures, or practices that endanger a child’s welfare. Within the department, social worker disclosures are received, evaluated against established criteria, investigated, and reported.

Recommendation. Approve. The subcommittee heard and discussed this item during its April 9, 2015 hearing.

3. April Letter – BCP #83: Implementing Child Victims of Human Trafficking

The Administration requests two permanent associate governmental program analysts to support the implementation of the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) program and the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (PL 113-183). These two positions will engage nonprofits, service providers, social service agencies, law enforcement, and health and mental health agencies in the development of state policies and program guidelines for services to children and youth at risk of, or victimized by, commercial sexual exploitation. The requested positions will also support county programs to provide prevention activities, intervention activities, and services to children who are victims, or at risk of becoming victims, of commercial sexual exploitation.

Recommendation. Approve. The subcommittee heard and discussed this item during its April 9, 2015 hearing.

5180 Department of Social Services**1. TBL 604: Employment Development Department Data Sharing**

The Administration proposes trailer bill language that authorizes the Employment Development Department (EDD) to share data with federal, state, or local government departments or agencies, or their contracted agencies, to support social services administration.

Recommendation. Approve; adopt placeholder trailer bill language. The subcommittee heard and discussed this item during its April 30, 2015 hearing.

0530 Health and Human Services Agency, Office of Systems Integration**5180 Department of Social Services****1. Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) 3 Project – Transition to New EBT Services**

The Administration requests an increase of \$1.6 million to the Office of Systems Integration (OSI) expenditure authority, beginning January 1, 2016, for the following one-time costs associated with the transition to a new Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Service Provider: (1) new EBT service provider transition costs; and (2) EBT 3 transition team.

Recommendation. Approve. The subcommittee heard and discussed this item, along with the department's strategies to improve EBT utilization to reduce surcharges for clients, during its April 30, 2015 hearing.

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

Public testimony will be taken at the end for all items listed in this section.

Multiple Departments

1. Proposals for Investment

Various stakeholders have submitted proposals for funding restoration, augmentation, or program expansion. The table below includes issues that have not been previously discussed. The subcommittee has invited a panel, including the Legislative Analyst's Office and proponents of the proposals, to provide a background and context.

5160 Department of Rehabilitation		
Program	Description	Amount Requested
Traumatic Brain Injury	Disability Rights California, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC), and Traumatic Brain Injury Services of California request augmenting the TBI Fund through the Driver Training Penalty Assessment Fund to maintain the program over the next 4 years.	\$1 million annually and trailer bill
Restore cuts to Assistive Technology Services	CFILC requests to restore the 30% cut to Assistive Technology Services that was made in 2004.	\$903,000
Independent Living Center funding	CFILC requests to provide base funding to all 28 ILCs in the amount of \$235,000.	\$705,000 annually
Better Jobs Incentive Payment	A pilot project in the Greater East Bay DOR District to provide an incentive payment for Department of Rehabilitation supported employment vendors to find consumers jobs that earn higher wages.	\$1,500 for each supported employer vendor each time a consumer in employment is placed.

5180 Department of Social Services		
Program	Description	Amount Requested
One California: Coordinating Citizenship and Immigration Assistance	Assist qualified non-profits to provide education, outreach, and application assistance to lawful permanent residents eligible for lawful permanent residents eligible for citizenship and undocumented immigrants eligible for administrative relief.	\$20 million GF ongoing
Child Welfare Services – Specialized Care Increment	Authorize foster families to access existing specialized care increment rates available in the counties and allocating \$15 million GF to offset the costs of expanding the pool of families eligible for these payments.	\$15 million GF ongoing
American Red Cross	Seeking a multi-year appropriation, as distributed to the Department of Social Services and allocated to the American Red Cross for disaster services in California.	\$7.5 million (\$2.5 million annually until FY 2017-18)

Staff Comment and Recommendation. **Hold open.** Staff recommends holding open the above proposals for further discussion and review.

Appendix A

Appendix A lists other human services-related proposals that have been discussed previously, including:

March 26, 2015

Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment		
Program	Description	Amount Requested
SSI/SSP	Request restoration on the SSP grant cuts and the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).	Varies

CalWORKs		
Program	Description	Amount Requested
Maximum Family Grant (MFG)	Repeal MFG	approx. \$210 million GF
Housing Support Program	Augment the CalWORKs Housing Support Program	\$30 million GF ongoing
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence	Enact trailer bill to require counties to waive any program requirement for individual who is a past or present victim of abuse, among other provisions.	Unknown
Additional proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase CalWORKs grants; • Restore the CalWORKs cost-of-living adjustment; • Restore the value of the Earned Income Disregard and index it to inflation; • Require Department of Social Services to develop options for reducing sanctions in consultation with stakeholders, with a report to the Legislature in 2016; • Suspend all transfers to the TANF 24-month-clock; and, • Require the Department of Social Services to develop alternatives to the TANF 24 month clock to result in fewer sanctions. 	Varies

April 9, 2015

Child Welfare Services		
Program	Description	Amount Requested
Bringing Families Home	Establish a county matching grant program for child-welfare involved families that may be experiencing homelessness.	\$10 million GF
Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention, and Support	(1) Target recruitment and support efforts to better match foster families and foster children; (2) direct services and supports to foster and kin caregivers; (3) and intensive family finding, engagement and support.	\$30.2 million GF
Foster Family Agencies (FFA) Social Workers	Fund the Foster Family Agency (FFA) social worker rate to increase the social work component of the FFA rate by \$200/month.	\$18.9 million GF
Transitional Housing Program-Plus (THP+) for Nonminor Dependents Aging Out of Care and to Homeless Youth	Expand THP+ for non-minor dependents aging out of care and for homeless youth. by modifying eligibility criteria to allow homeless youth, ages 18 to 24, to participate in the program.	\$30 million GF

March 26, 2015 and April 23, 2015

Aging		
Program	Description	Amount Requested
Access to and coordination of services	Same.	\$14 million GF
Nutrition	Provide additional meals and nutrition support through the Brown Bag program (\$1 million) and Home-Delivered Meals (\$5 million)	\$6 million GF
Support caregivers	Enhance caregiving and family support for three programs that support caregivers: \$5 million for Alzheimer's Day Care, \$900,000 for Respite Purchase of Services, and \$1.6 million for Senior Companion	\$7.5 million GF
Protection against elder abuse	Same.	\$9.5 million GF
Long-Term Care Ombudsman	(1) \$2.8 million for quarterly monitoring visits to all long-term care facilities in California through the addition of 45 positions; (2) \$351,000 to supervise and train volunteers; and, (3) \$1.1 million to investigate around 6,000 more complaints per year, through the addition of 18 positions.	\$4.25 million GF
Adult Protective Services training	California Commission on Aging, California Justice Coalition, and California Welfare Directors Association request funding to create a statewide Adult Protective Services (APS) training program for new APS staff, for supervisor training, and for new policy training.	\$5 million GF

April 30, 2015

Nutrition and Food Related		
Program	Description	Amount Requested
State Emergency Food Assistance Program	Distribute state emergency food assistance to all counties, based on existing methodology.	\$5 million GF
Nutrition Incentives/Market Match	Establish Nutrition Incentive Matching Grant Program, building off of California Market Match, which doubles purchasing power of CalFresh benefits when spent on specified crops at farmer's markets.	\$5 million GF ongoing