



DRAFT MINUTES

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT SUBCOMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 | 4:00 p.m. | 445 State Capitol

Members Present:

President J. Stuart Adams, Co-chair
Speaker Brad R. Wilson, Co-chair
Sen. Karen Mayne
Sen. Evan J. Vickers

Rep. Brian S. King
Rep. Mike Schultz

Staff Present:

Kade R. Minchey, Auditor General
Debbie Clawson, Administrative Assistant

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

MOTION: Speaker Wilson moved for approval of the October 18, 2021 Minutes. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 0.

Yeas - 6

Sen. J. Adams
Rep. B. King
Sen. K. Mayne
Rep. M. Schultz
Sen. E. Vickers
Rep. B. Wilson

Nays - 0

Absent - 0

President Adams welcomed the new House Majority Leader, Representative Schultz.

2. Audit Report Presentations

Mr. Brian Dean, Deputy Auditor General, introduced An In-Depth Follow-Up of the Oversight and Management of Utah's Homeless Services System

[An In-Depth Follow-Up of the Oversight and Management of Utah's Homeless Services System \(#2021-14\)](#)

Mr. James Behunin, Senior Audit Supervisor, presented the findings of the audit.

Mr. Behunin responded to a question from Senator Vickers about information on page 15 which shows the current need for \$525 million in Salt Lake County to provide housing for the homeless, and also an additional \$247 million each year, which means that we are continuing to grow the homeless population, not decrease it.

Senator Vickers commented that these numbers are unsustainable and is hoping that we can get to the point where we have solutions to move people on.

Mr. Dean commented that in the following chapters the audit addresses an alternative approach of measuring flow and looking at these individuals and how we are progressing them along through the system.

Mr. Behunin continued his presentation of the audit.

Mr. Wayne Niederhauser, State Homeless Coordinator, Office of Homeless Service, responded to the findings of the audit.

Mr. Niederhauser responded to a question from Representative Schultz about whether the increased housing and rental costs in the State are feeding into the homelessness issues in Salt Lake County.

Mr. Niederhauser responded to comments from Senator Mayne recognizing that this has been a problem from the beginning of time and that there needs to be a workable project as there are going to be more people coming in.

Mr. Niederhauser responded to a question from Representative King regarding the cost estimates for permanent supportive housing facilities referenced on page 14 of the audit.

Representative King commented at length about the challenges of chronic homeless individuals and also those individuals experiencing situational homelessness and the challenge of needing to come up with a better way of dealing with that range of individuals.

Mr. Behunin responded to a question from Speaker Wilson regarding the auditor's recommendations in Chapter 4 about getting good data and where that is going to come from.

Mr. Niederhauser also responded to the previous question from Speaker Wilson.

President Adams thanked the auditors for this very in-depth and very well done audit and also to Mr. Niederhauser for taking on this assignment and for his efforts.

Mr. Niederhauser summed up that there is hope for every person and we shouldn't lose that hope.

MOTION: Speaker Wilson moved to refer An In-Depth Follow-Up of the Oversight and Management of Utah's Homeless Services System to the Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee as the Lead Committee and the Economic Development and Workforce Services Interim Committee and Political Subdivision Interim Committee as the Review Committees. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 0.

Yeas - 6

Nays - 0

Absent - 0

Sen. J. Adams
Rep. B. King
Sen. K. Mayne
Rep. M. Schultz
Sen. E. Vickers
Rep. B. Wilson

President Adams asked everyone to join in applause to congratulate Jim Behunin on his 36 years of service and that the impact he has made on the entire State of Utah is extremely significant.

Mr. Darin Underwood, Deputy Auditor General, introduced An In-Depth Follow-Up of the State's Career Service System.

[An In-Depth Follow-Up of the State's Career Service System \(#2021-15\)](#)

Mr. August Lehman, Audit Supervisor, presented the findings of the audit.

Ms. Jenny Rees, Executive Director, Department of Government Operations responded to the findings of the audit

Mr. John Barrand, Director, Division of Human Resource Management responded to the findings of the audit.

Mr. Barrand responded to Senator Mayne's comments that whether a state employee is at-will or career service, there needs to be protection for all, not selective.

MOTION: Speaker Wilson moved we refer An In-Depth Follow-Up of the State's Career Service System to the Government Operations Interim Committee as the Lead Committee and the Infrastructure and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee as the Review Committee. Speaker Wilson hopes that these recommendations from our auditors can be implemented and would like the agency to follow-up in a year to let us know how that is going. Speaker Wilson also asked Kade to take this information back to the Legislative Management Council so that we can make sure we are doing these things too.

The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 0.

<u>Yeas - 6</u> Sen. J. Adams Rep. B. King Sen. K. Mayne Rep. M. Schultz Sen. E. Vickers Rep. B. Wilson	<u>Nays - 0</u>	<u>Absent - 0</u>
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President Adams thanked everyone for being there and would again like to reiterate that training is the number one thing that needs to be focused on.

Mr. Benjamin Buys, Audit Manager, introduced A Limited Review of Warrants and Uncollected Fines and Fees.

[A Limited Review of Warrants and Uncollected Fines and Fees \(#2021-16\)](#)

Mr. Zackery King, Lead Auditor, presented the findings of the audit.

Ms. Cathy Dupont, Deputy Court Administrator, responded to the findings of the audit remotely.

MOTION: Speaker Wilson moved to refer A Limited Review of Warrants and Uncollected Fines and Fees to the Executive Offices and Criminal Justice Appropriations Subcommittee as the Lead Committee and the Judiciary Interim Committee and the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee as the Review Committees. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0 - 1.

<u>Yeas - 5</u> Sen. J. Adams Rep. B. King Sen. K. Mayne Sen. E. Vickers Rep. B. Wilson	<u>Nays - 0</u>	<u>Absent - 1</u> Rep. M. Schultz
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MOTION: Speaker Wilson moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0 - 1.

<u>Yeas - 5</u> Sen. J. Adams Rep. B. King Sen. K. Mayne Sen. E. Vickers Rep. B. Wilson	<u>Nays - 0</u>	<u>Absent - 1</u> Rep. M. Schultz
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