

**2004 APPROVED
WORK PLAN, MEETING SCHEDULE AND BUDGET
for the
WELFARE REFORM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

I. MEMBERS

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Sen. Raymond Kysar
Rep. Earlene Roberts
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Rep. Jim Trujillo
Rep. Avon W. Wilson

II. WORK PLAN

A. The welfare reform oversight committee was created by Laws 1998, Chapter 8, Section 22 and Laws 1998, Chapter 9, Section 22. Section 2-17-3 NMSA 1978 sets forth the statutory duties of the welfare reform oversight committee:

"2-17-3. Duties.

A. ...Upon approval of the work plan and budget by the legislative council, the committee shall:

- (1) examine the statutes, constitutional provisions and rules governing welfare reform in New Mexico;
- (2) monitor and oversee the implementation of the New Mexico Works Act;
- (3) review issues related to welfare reform, including job training programs and related contracts; cash assistance; child care, transportation and other job-related services; and other issues that arise because of the devolution of the federal welfare programs to the states; and
- (4) make recommendations relating to the adoption of rules and legislation, if any are found to be necessary.

B. The committee shall regularly receive testimony from the secretaries of human services; labor; children, youth and families; and health and the superintendent of public instruction on issues arising from the implementation of the New Mexico Works Act and shall review proposed rules, schedules and formulae before adoption."

B. In pursuit of its statutory charge to oversee and monitor the implementation of the New Mexico Works Act, the welfare reform oversight committee proposes to focus on the reauthorization of the federal welfare reform legislation and its funding, the decrease in the temporary assistance to needy families (TANF) population due to the 60-month time limit on people receiving TANF services, the number of people receiving hardship exemptions from the 60-month limit and the way in which the state is helping and monitoring the success of former recipients of TANF services.

C. The committee will review the level of coordination among the state agencies providing TANF services, including the human services, labor, children, youth and families and public education departments. In addition, the committee will receive updates from tribes with TANF programs and seek information regarding the support the programs are receiving from state agencies, especially the human services department, and the level of coordination between the state TANF program and tribal TANF programs.

D. The committee will continue to seek data pertaining to barriers to successful work placement for TANF participants throughout the state, with continued emphasis on the barriers created by domestic violence and substance abuse.

E. The committee will review the implementation of programs to increase food stability in New Mexico.

F. The committee will continue to review efforts to close the child support enforcement gap and review the effect of changes adopted in 2004.

G. The committee will continue to review the strategic plans and performance measures of the human services department, the children, youth and families department and the labor department to determine if welfare reform and workforce development goals are being adequately identified, coordinated, cooperatively implemented and achieved. The committee will consider and evaluate services provided from the point of view of availability of needed services, ease of access to services and equitable treatment of those who are employed to provide services.

H. The committee will gather information on the effect of TANF programs on the overall poverty rate of people in New Mexico and what strategies can be used to move New Mexico out of last or close to last place in poverty indices in the United States and to move individuals and families out of poverty. The committee will consider in its analysis the bare bones budget.

I. The committee will review and address, as necessary, issues existing in the provision of child care for the TANF and low-income population of New Mexico.

J. The committee will evaluate the effectiveness of existing state TANF programs to recommend future funding levels.

III. MEETING SCHEDULE AND BUDGET

The welfare reform oversight committee will be meeting on the following dates in the

state capitol in Santa Fe in the following rooms:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ROOM</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
June 23	322	\$ 2,876
July 29-30	322	4,628
August 30-31	322	4,628
September 30-October 1	322	4,628
November 22-23	317	<u>4,628</u>
TOTAL BUDGET		*\$ 21,388

*This amount does not reflect the budget required for advisory members of **\$13,764** paid from a different fund.