

UPHA Legislative Alert - 2009

February 3, 2009

Update: Budget Review Continues

The Health and Human Services budget continues to be reviewed by the legislature. On January 28, 2009, the Utah Department of Health presented its budget recommendations and responded to how they would cut their agency budget by 15%. To review their recommended changes go to www.upta.org/voice/20090129LegislativeAlert.html and click on the link "Base Budget Reductions - by the Legislative Fiscal Analyst". Items in grey indicate a recommendation by UDOH that the item not be cut. All items in white are "on the table".

On this same UPHA web page, find the schedule, agendas, minutes, and audio of Health and Human Service Committee meetings.

January 29, 2009

Update: UDOH Hearing Educates Legislators

Audio recording of meeting and other details at:

<http://le.utah.gov/asp/interim/Commit.asp?Year=2009&Com=APPHHS>

UDOH responded to the proposed budget by educating the legislative committee about UDOH history in terms of consolidation, and defended "grey-lined" items in the budget they sought to reverse. The UDOH response met the budget goal of a 15% budget reduction while maintaining funding for activities they deemed critical. The Committee did not make any decisions and are continuing to hear additional testimony from local health departments, providers, and other constituents in coming weeks.

January 28, 2009

Severe Budget Cuts Proposed – Appropriations Subcommittee

In the January 21, 2009, Health and Human Services Appropriation committee meeting, the base budget recommendation was approved.

The proposed cuts are so deep that basic governmental responsibilities for the assurance of health and safety will be greatly diminished. Promotion of health and safety, disease surveillance, laboratory testing, environmental health and access to healthcare, and emergency medical services are slated for severe cuts.

If the budget were implemented as it stands today, 296 UDOH jobs are on the line. This would result in a reduction of nearly 30% of all UDOH employees.

Due to the economic downturn, cuts need to be made. These cuts should be made carefully with input from local and state health officials and citizens to assure the best public health system possible with the resources at hand.

Of the 104 line items in the proposed budget, UDOH deems the following cuts as unacceptable. Fact sheets are provided to further explain the cuts and their potential impact.

- 104 - Consolidation of the Health Department into other state agencies
- 94 - Forensic Toxicology – DUI
- 80 - Reduce Contract for Data Cleaning and De-duplication
- 75 - Child Care Licensing Reduction to Match Fewer Facilities
- 74 - Change from 2 to 1 Visit per Year for Highly Compliant Child Care Facilities
- 72 - Agency Productivity Enhancements
- 70 - Medicaid Cost Containment
- 69 - Eliminate Grants to EMS Agencies
- 67 - 2008 GS - Specimen Preparation Equipment and Inflation
- 62 - Eliminate Health Dept subsidy of other State Depts for Chemical and Environmental services
- 61 - End Subsidy of Medical Facility Inspections
- 51 - New Fee for Noncompliant Child Care Facilities for Extra Inspections
- 50 - \$1,000 County Surcharge for Death Exams (2,000/year)
- 47 - Replace General Fund With 50% of Fee Increases Proposed
- 45- Make Laboratory Improvement Program Self-Sustaining
- 38- Enforcement of Food Sanitation Rules (HB 114, 2006 GS, S. Clark)
- 37 - Eliminate Statewide Trauma System
- 35 - 2006 GS - State Epidemiologist
- 34- Elimination of Tobacco Prevention Funded Efforts
- 33 - Reduce Tobacco Cessation Programs
- 31 - Eliminate Tobacco Money Funded - Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention
- 28 - Eliminate State Money for Child Adolescent and School Health Program
- 26 - Children's Health Insurance Program (HB 326, 2008 GS, Curtis)
- 24 - 2007 GS - Utah Birth Defect Network - 80% Reduction

Immediate Call to Action

Today is an important time to call your senator or representative to help restore items in the base budget that were recommended for elimination. Please educate your legislator and especially members of the Executive Appropriations Committee TODAY to explain the impact of the elimination of these funds to your organization and ultimately the citizens and visitors to our state.

To address the issue at hand, please ask to reconsider the magnitude of cuts to public health on the Base Budget Recommendations from Health and Human Services.

Executive Appropriations Committee

<http://www.leg.state.ut.us> To find an email address or phone number

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