

FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
September 13, 2017

The Fiscal Committee of the General Court met on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 210-211 of the Legislative Office Building.

Members in attendance were as follows:

Representative Neal Kurk, Chairman
Representative Frank Byron (Alternate)
Representative Lynne Ober
Representative Mary Jane Wallner
Representative Daniel Eaton
Representative Karen Umberger (Alternate)
Senator Bob Giuda (Alternate)
Senate President Chuck Morse
Senator Lou D'Allesandro
Senator Jeb Bradley (Alternate)
Senator Regina Birdsell (Alternate)

Chairman Kurk opened the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

INFORMATIONAL ITEM:

FIS 17-150 Department of Health and Human Services – Jeffrey Meyers, Commissioner, Christine Tappan, Associate Commissioner, Brady Serafin, Director, Sununu Youth Services Center, and Kathleen Talbot, Division of Children Youth and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, responded to questions of the Committee regarding the information letter, dated August 31, 2017, regarding the Departments Plan to Develop Alternative Placement Capacity for DCYF Involved Youth.

Discussion focused on 1) the Legislative intent for the use of not less than \$8.7M of funds appropriated under DHHS Child and Family Services (05-95-45-42-2958) to fund rate increases and additional placements in the community for youth non-violent offenders; 2) the Department's procurement process to secure additional capacity in the community for said youths; and 3) the Department's comprehensive assessment of the adequacy of the existing service array to handle services for said youths.

In response to (1), the Committee stressed the Legislative intent for the use of \$8.7M of funds appropriated for DHHS Child and Family Services, as required by HB 517, was to fund not less than 35 beds for placement in Medicaid eligible-settings and services at large in the community.


In response to (2), the Department stated they were in the process of preparing a request for applications (RFA) to providers in order to establish the criteria for services and capacity needed to address the needs of said youth population. This will be the only part of the procurement process and allow the Department to choose multiple providers to provide an array of services. At the Committee's request the Department will provide a copy of the RFA once released.

In response to (3), the Department stated HB 517 requires them to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the adequacy of the existing services for the discussed youth population. This assessment will be independent of the procurement process and will have a total cost between \$100,000 and \$200,000. This assessment will not be funded from the \$8.7M stated above, and should be eligible for Federal match.

The Commissioner stated that the Department intends to comply with the provisions of HB 517 based on the Legislative intent, will ensure the mandated timelines are met, and will provide monthly reports to the Committee as required.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Fiscal Committee was previously set for Friday, September 29, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. (Whereupon the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.)



Representative Ken Weyler, Clerk