

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held in the Room 1E at the Legislative Office Building, on May 5, 2011.

PRESENT: Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman
Deputy Comptroller Martha Carlson
Deputy Treasurer Jonathan Harris
Senator Toni Harp
Senator John McKinney
Representative Toni Walker
Deputy Secretary Mark Ojakian
Office of Policy and Management, Finance Advisory Committee Clerk

Absent: Governor Dannel P. Malloy
Representative Henry Genga
Representative Craig Miner

Lieutenant Governor Wyman called the meeting to order at 1:05 P.M.

1. The minutes of the March 3, 2011 meeting were adopted.
2. The following new transactions were approved by the committee:

FAC 2011-22 - Judicial Selection Commission. This is a transfer of \$2,700 from Other Expenses to Personal Services to cover net payroll expenses.

This item was unanimously approved by the committee.

FAC 2011-23 - Department of Public Works. This is a transfer of \$24,000 from Personal Services to Capitol Day Care account to pay expenses to the end of the fiscal year.

This item was unanimously approved by the committee.

FAC 2011-24 – Office of Protection & Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities. This is a request to transfer \$72,659 from Other Expenses to Personal Services to cover a projected shortfall in this account.

This item was unanimously approved by the committee.

FAC 2011-25 – Agricultural Experiment Station. This is a transfer of \$200,000 from Personal Services to Other Expenses to cover utility and operational expenditures.

Senator McKinney asked if the monies available in the Personal Services account was due to the hiring freeze. He also wanted to know if this \$200,000 will cover a utility increase for next year. PAUL, HELP!!!

This item was unanimously approved by the committee.

FAC 2011-26 - Department of Developmental Services. This is a transfer of \$406,012 from Personal Services to Other Expenses to cover expenditure requirements.

This item was unanimously approved by the committee.

FAC 2011-27 - Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services. This is a total transfer of \$5,400,000 from Workers' Compensation, Behavioral Health Medication and Home and Community Based Services accounts to Grants for Mental Health Services to transfer funds to the Department of Social Services in support of claims for federal reimbursement for targeted case management services provided by DMHAS contractors.

This item was unanimously approved by the committee.

FAC 2011-28 – Department of Transportation. This is a transfer of \$6,380,000 from Rail Operations to Personal Services and Other Expenses for costs which have exceeded budgeted amounts due to the severity of the 2010-2011 winter season.

This item was unanimously approved by the committee.

FAC 2011-29 – Department of Social Services. This is a total transfer of \$196,240,000 from various accounts to State Food Stamp Supplement, Medicaid, Old Age Assistance, Aid to the Blind and Aid to the Disabled in order to meet anticipated end of year requirements in these accounts.

Representative Walker asked why the CT Home Care program has a surplus. Lee Voghel, DSS' Chief Fiscal Officer, explained that clients have shifted from the state-funded program into the Medicaid waiver program and that some clients have reduced their service plans after determining that they did not need all of the services they were receiving. He also indicated that there was a shift in costs due to the expansion in PCA services under Medicaid. Representative Walker asked how many people are shifting to Medicaid. Lee Voghel indicated that he would provide that data.

Representative Walker then asked what was driving the surplus in TFA. Lee Voghel explained that applications are down. Representative Walker was concerned that the TFA program is not meeting the MOE requirement. Lee Voghel stated that all ARRA requirements have been met.

Representative Walker also expressed concern regarding the surplus in the Child Care Services account. Lee Voghel explained that this was a decrease due to lack of employment and the need for services. Lee noted that overall caseload was down 14%.

Senator Harp stated that she was surprised by the surplus in the Rental Assistance Program given the demand in that area. Lee Voghel stated that the number of placements are lower than anticipated.

Senator Harp stated that she was concerned that there were funds lapsing in Personal Services given that the district offices are understaffed. She also expressed a concern with the lapse in the Teen Pregnancy Prevention account because of a delayed RFP process.

Senator McKinney asked if clients in the CT Home Care program were reducing their service package because they couldn't afford the higher fee or if it was because they were getting services they didn't need. Lee Voghel indicated it was the latter.

Deputy Comptroller Martha Carlson asked if the lapse in RAP was due to certificate holders not having a security deposit. Lee Voghel indicated that, anecdotally, that was one of many reasons.

This item was unanimously approved by the committee.

FAC 2011-30 – Department of Education. This is a transfer of \$4,940,000 Personal Services to Other Expenses, Health Foods Initiative, Excess Cost-Student Based and Transportation of School Children in order to meet anticipated end of year requirements in these various accounts.

This item was unanimously approved by the committee.

FAC 2011-31 – Teachers' Retirement Board. This is a transfer of \$106,000 from Personal Services to Other Expenses in order to meet its current expense obligations.

This item was unanimously approved by the committee.

3. The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 P.M.

Mark E. Ojakian
Clerk