
ASPA BUZZ

A Publication of the American Society for Public Administration, Utah Chapter

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ASPA Luncheon

Friday, February 10, 2006

12:00 Noon

Utah State Center for the Blind
250 North 1950 West, Room 227, SLC

Assisting People Who Are Homeless: Emerging Strategies for Addressing Needs

Who are the homeless and how are they currently being assisted? What steps are being taken to target assistance to root causes of homelessness and to resolve chronic problems? What will happen as the large population cohort of “baby boomers” continues to age and what resources will be needed in the future? Come and listen to a panel of involved local administrators address these issues.

KERRY STEADMAN, Homeless Services Coordinator, Salt Lake County
ROSEMARY KAPPES, Executive Director, Housing Authority of Salt Lake City
KATHY BRAY, Vice President of Programs for Volunteers of America, Utah
LLOYD PENDLETON, Director of Homeless Task Force, State of Utah

Due to limited space, please make your reservations early. The luncheon will be catered. Reservations or cancellations must be received no later than Tuesday, February 7th. No shows will be billed.

The cost of the luncheon is \$12.00 for ASPA members, students and *Buzz* Supporters and \$15.00 for nonmembers.

Please call the Center for Public Policy and Administration, University of Utah, at 581-6493 or email jrandall@cpga.utah.edu for reservations.

ASPA ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

By Dan Hannon

The January 12th Legislative Preview was attended by 61 members and colleagues. **Dr. W. David Patton**, Director of the Center for Public Policy and Administration at the University of Utah chaired a panel of legislators consisting of Senator Dan Eastman, Senator Ed Mayne, and Representative Roz McGee. Dr. Patton asked each of the panelists to address the following three questions:

1. What are the important issues the Legislature will address this session?
2. What bills are you are sponsoring and why are they important to the state?
3. What are the long term needs of the state that still need to be addressed?

Senator Dan Eastman commented that some of the important issues that will be addressed are important every year, namely: education, transportation, and building needs in higher education. This year taxation will be a big topic. Social issues will likely be discussed in the context of the budget surplus.

Senator Eastman is sponsoring a bill that will do away with the requirement that a license plate be displayed on the **fronts** of automobiles. Currently, about 30% of the citizens do not display a front license plate and many are unaware of the law requiring it. Most Utah law enforcement agencies do not enforce this law.

Senator Eastman is co-sponsoring the USTAR project, an economic development tool which integrates the public universities and is designed to attract businesses to Utah, particularly those involved in the biomedical research industry. With regard to transportation, Senator Eastman quoted a report that in the next 30 years there will be \$23.5 billion in needs that are currently unfunded. In building needs, there is \$200 million worth of improvements that are on the docket for this year alone. Therefore, Senator Eastman believes that the large budget surplus that Utah is projecting for this year should be used to address these needs. This is not an enlargement of government, he maintains, rather a cash payment for inevitable construction needs. Spending surplus funds on these projects now will eliminate the need to borrow money later.

Representative Roz McGee mentioned that she would answer a variant of the first question: What the Legislature *should* address instead of what the Legislature *will* address. Representative McGee plans to push a public education package, initiated by House Democrats, that will protect the use of the uniform school fund, provide fee waivers for low income students, make use of volunteers to provide all-day kindergarten for disadvantaged children, reduce class size in the schools, increase library funding and encourage teachers to achieve national board certification. Her second bill will enhance “good government processes.” This bill provides for Election Day voter registration, a ban on gifts to legislators, a requirement for candidate reporting of last minute contributions, and a slowing of the “revolving doors” of legislators stepping down to become lobbyists by requiring a one-year gap between the two activities. This bill also provides more specificity in conflict of interest reporting, increased scrutiny on the personal use of campaign funds, and modification of the redistricting process. Representative McGee is also introducing HB 8, which mandates better marriage

preparation in four areas for those who wish to marry. She recounted circumstances of youth who have been cast out of their families because of criminal behavior and consequently do not have access to adequate health care. HB 30 addresses this problem. HB 91 seeks to codify a non-compete clause for physicians. Her fourth bill, HB 92, is one-page long and provides for a two-thirds vote on redistricting proposals.

With regard to the long-term needs of the state, Representative McGee first commented on the rising costs of health care for those who receive Medicaid. She believes that assisting families, children, and the ill before a crisis occurs will, in the long run, save the state a lot of money. She also referred to the dire need to review water policy and further encourage conservation. Representative McGee believes developing Utah's economy through investment in the tourism sector and capitalizing on the USTAR initiative is also a way of bringing about long term stability, especially in rural areas.

As for the budget surplus, she said that if the surplus is the result of past investments the State has made in economic development, then the state should further invest part of the surplus in additional economic development activities.

Senator Ed Mayne referred to his background as the Utah AFL-CIO president, and the growth of unions among the various professions in Utah. He said this is partially the basis of his sensitivity to issues concerning working families, children, and those who feel disenfranchised.

Senator Mayne believes the important issues that will be discussed in the General Session include: education funding, both higher education and public education; transportation, health care, human services (due to the surplus), and a fairer tax structure. Just as moderation is important in life, he says it should govern legislative decisions in cutting taxes. The surplus should be used first to address pressing state needs. He said there are two kinds revenue: "One-time" money and "On-going" money. Surplus one-time money should be utilized for capital needs, although a moderate tax cut would be in order.

Senator Mayne is sponsoring a bill that will address Utah's very low ratio of school nurses to students in public schools. Because some school districts have been "strapped for cash," they have done away with their school nurses. Consequently, there have been accidents in schools, some of them severe, which have resulted in injured students with no readily available school nurse to attend to them. He is also supporting a bill that will encode more fairness in the non-competition contracts some employees are required to sign. Some people have been laid off but are still not allowed to work in their area of expertise.

Senator Mayne feels strongly that Utah's minimum wage needs to be raised. He says the state is, in effect, subsidizing businesses because it is providing welfare benefits to workers who qualify because they are only making the minimum wage. Raising the wage to \$7 an hour would do away with this subsidy. He recounts that it may be economically right for some employers, but morally wrong for people not to make a living wage. (He gave an example of a woman working at three jobs to support her family.)

Issues that need to be considered in planning for Utah's future is the rapid rate of growth, water issues, USTAR, and raising the minimum wage. He believes the Legislature has wasted a lot of time debating "moral" issues and has failed to address issues the public really cares about (at least as indicated by polling data).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. *How much is the surplus?*

SENATOR EASTMAN: At least \$478,000,000 and it may increase by February 15th.

2. *How would the proposed elimination of the tax on unprepared food affect other suggested tax cuts?*

SENATOR EASTMAN: The total proposed tax refund being considered by the State Senate includes the amount that the food tax cut would yield in benefit to the people. However, the Senate has yet to take a position on whether it would approve such a tax refund.

3. *Where are you on the equalization of property taxes on first and second homes?*

SENATOR MAYNE: I have pushed a bill for four or five years that would give some kind of rebate or tax cut on second homes. Many of these homes are 30, 40, or 50 years old and are not hooked up to municipal-type services such as sewer. They do not house children impacting area schools. A lot of people are losing their old rustic cabins because they cannot pay the taxes on them.

4. (To Senator Eastman): *Does the Republican Party caucus support the good government principles put forth by Representative McGee?*

SENATOR EASTMAN: I don't take gifts. If I am sent Jazz tickets, I send them back. Therefore, I am personally fine with a limit on gifts set at zero. However, I do not see any abuses resulting from the receipt of gifts. Regarding legislative redistricting, I do not see any blatant abuses of this process and would be opposed to creating a panel to make redistricting decisions. Several states have instituted reforms similar to what has been proposed and they have been disasters. However, as far as requiring a third-thirds vote to approve redistricting, I do not see anything wrong with that.

5. (To Senator Eastman): *What about the remaining reforms proposed by McGee?*

If it makes everybody happy, I would have no problems with them.

6. (To Senator Mayne): *If "moderation" is the basis on which to decide not to give the entire surplus back to the taxpayer, then it also is the basis on which to decide not to use the whole surplus for state needs. Are you, therefore, saying that some of the surplus should go back to the taxpayers?*

SENATOR MAYNE: Yes, I think it is appropriate. The elimination of sales tax on unprepared food will give back \$300 million to the citizens. We have to have people

communicate on this. We will all have our input; some of us are looking for a graduated program to rebate lower-income households. I think we should do away with the sales tax on food. That's the moderation I'm talking about.

REPRESENTATIVE MCGEE: The sales tax on food sounds good to many of us but it is much more complicated than it appears to be. There are many small communities in the state that are highly dependant on their portion of sales tax that comes from food.

At the end of the discussion, Dr. Patton thanked the Legislators for being in attendance and for their candid comments. He also thanked **Sandy Peck** for organizing the meeting and members of the audience for attending!

Business Writing Workshop

Sponsored by the Utah Chapter of ASPA

Come spend four intense hours on improving your writing skills!

This workshop provides strategies for increasing the quality and value of your business writing. Learn techniques to convey information for action and change. Topics covered include ways of tailoring different forms of business writing to various audiences and business writing guidelines. We will also discuss the effective use of different types of business documents including letters, emails, proposals, and procedures.

INSTRUCTOR: Annie O'Brien, Director of Professional Education, University of Utah, Continuing Education

DATE: February 24, 2006

TIME: 1 to 5 pm

LOCATION: Division for Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DSBVI)
250 North 1950 West, Room 218, in Salt Lake City

COST: \$15/person

TO REGISTER: Email jrandall@cpga.utah.edu or call 801- 581-6493

QUESTIONS? Contact Sara McCormick email sara.mccormick@cpga.utah.edu or call 801-585-7764

**To allow more personal interaction, registrations will be limited to 30.
Please respond soon!**

COUNCIL CORNER

Arlene Zortman
Salt Lake County

DOING BUSINESS WITH GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

There are many ways for businesses, nonprofit organizations and individuals to do business with governmental agencies. Many people have commented that government contract processes work slowly with reference to acquiring services or products from outside entities. It is true that government employees must follow the policies, procedures and guidelines put in place by their local government, the State government and/or the Federal government. These policies are in place to provide a fair and equitable process for everyone. And, yes, sometimes the process does take time. I have described below some of the mechanisms governmental agencies use to seek bids from outside vendors.

RFB (Request for Bid) that turns into a purchase order. The bid is sent to vendors, is usually a one-time transaction and the exact specifics and quantity are known. This process is competitive and the low bid must be accepted. An example of this process would be if an agency were purchasing a copier machine.

RFB (Request for Bid) that results in a contract. In this instance the specific agency knows what kind of product or service it needs but does not know the exact price. This bid is based on an estimate of cost of the services or products to be provided. It is sent out to vendors as a part of the competitive process and, again, the low bid is accepted. An example of this process is when a vendor is chosen to provide food or in-home services to individuals.

RFP (Request for Proposal) is used when an agency is seeking vendors who can provide specific services or products but want to learn how agencies will address the problem for which a service is needed. This process requires specific qualifications and pricing and is competitive. The RFP does not always go to the lowest bidder. An example of this process may include an agency looking for custodial services for several buildings.

Sole Source Contract is provided when there is only one entity that can provide the service or product requested. This process is scrutinized very thoroughly, is not easy to carry out and may not be approved. (In fact, it was even difficult for me to come up with an example of this process!) One example is where an agency has been providing packaged cooking mixes to individuals; however, competitive businesses are taking a look at these items and this process may soon have to be bid out.

An order for **Standardization of Equipment** results when a governmental entity has decided on a product or service to be used throughout their entire agency. An example of this may be cubicles used in a building that need to be standard so that they can be used to mix and match when changes are made. This way all materials are interchangeable. Another example could be specific software that is used by an agency. The agency may wish to negotiate an agreement with a provider already under contract for the additional units or seek a new bid for the entire job.

A declaration of a **Public Exigency** can be used when a need is so compelling or of such an unusual urgency that a delay cannot be tolerated. It generally occurs when public safety is a concern and to bid out the service or product would take too long. An example of this process would be to provide banisters for horse stalls at a local equestrian center. The safety of the public (and the animals) was a major concern and time was of the essence.

Blanket Purchase Orders are used by some government agencies to obtain services or products needed over an entire year. Agency personnel cannot go over a specific amount per purchase (such as \$1,000) or over a specific amount per year (such as \$10,000). An example of this process could be a translation service for customers accessing specific services or products that provide information in their language. This service can be accessed throughout the year, when needed, and provides continuity within the agency.

Small Cost Purchase Orders are for services or products under a specific amount (such as \$1,000), are generally specific, and can include a variety of vendors. Some examples of this could include: purchasing books or pamphlets for an agency; a notary stamp; special paper for a project; etc.

I have described some of the mechanisms used by governments to seek services and goods from businesses, nonprofits and individuals. Generally the Purchasing Department of a local government is the first contact for someone with a service or product they wish to provide to a government agency. After the contact is made, it is just a matter of working through the system to become a vendor.

WELCOME TO NEW ASPA MEMBERS!

Adan Carrillo

William Krause

ASPA ARCHIVES

Over the years we have received many excellent articles for publication in the BUZZ. Many of these articles have lasting value and we thought it would be appropriate to reprint some of them when time and space permits. The following article (originally published in the May 2003 ASPA Buzz) by Kelli Polcha, formerly with Gentiva Rehab Without Walls and now with Salt Lake County, is of particular interest to me because I am dealing with a head trauma victim who is a member of my extended family. He is a well-respected attorney in eastern Washington State. He is a valuable member of his family who, due to an accident with his horses, will probably have to close his law practice 10 years earlier than planned. If you are going to do things that are dangerous, please wear a helmet!

Ed Blaney, a member of the ASPA Editorial Team

Your Brain and Mine!

By Kelli H. Polcha, MSW, MPA

Over the past year I have had the privilege of serving as Executive Director for the Gentiva Rehab Without Walls[®] program here in Utah and Southeastern Idaho. We are a provider of home and community based neuro-rehab therapies treating individuals who have sustained traumatic or acquired brain injuries, spinal cord injuries and other progressive neurological disorders such as Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's. The most frequent diagnosis that we treat is traumatic brain injury. I am always surprised at how little the general public understands about the impact (no pun intended) of brain injury on a person's life. A few facts:

- In America, brain injury occurs every 21 seconds and sends more than 1 million people to emergency rooms each year.
- CDC data reveals that an estimated 5.3 million Americans live with a disability caused by a brain injury. (In Utah alone, the number reaches 44,000 individuals!)
- Brain injury occurs more frequently than breast cancer, AIDS, MS, and spinal cord injury combined.
- Brain injury strikes over 1 million children every year in America.

The only cure for brain injury is prevention, so prepare yourself for a little education on the effects of a brain injury and why we need to align our efforts and get involved.

In a traumatic injury the brain may be injured in a specific location or the injury may be diffused to many different parts of the brain. It is this indefinite nature of brain injury that makes treatment unique for each individual patient. As rehabilitation specialists, we learn about an injury by observing a client as they attempt to function in their everyday lives. All of the activities that we perform daily, whether mental or physical, are directed by different parts of the brain. Three areas that are almost always impacted by a brain injury are as follows:

COMMUNICATION AND COGNITION: Consequences may include the following deficits:

- Short-term and/or long-term memory loss
- Slowed ability to process information
- Shortened attention span
- Trouble using/finding the right words
- Inability to express language (Boca's Aphasia)
- Spatial disorientation
- Organizational problems and impaired judgment
- Inability to focus on task/inability to complete tasks without reminders or cues
- Persistence of a single thought (Perservation)
- Inability to plan a sequence of complex movements needed to complete multi-stepped tasks, such as making coffee (sequencing)
- Difficulty understanding spoken words (Wenicke's Aphasia)

PHYSICAL: Consequences may include the following deficits:

- Seizures
- Muscle spasms
- Double or impaired vision, even blindness
- Loss of taste or smell
- Speech impairments such as slow or slurred speech
- Fatigue and the increased need for sleep
- Balance problems
- Complete or partial loss of mobility
- Loss of hearing
- Difficulty or inability to swallow food and water (Dysphagia)
- Lack of ability to coordinate fine movements
- Loss of ability to walk

EMOTIONAL: Consequences may include the following deficits:

- Increased anxiety
- Mood swings
- Denial of deficits
- Impulsive, unsafe behavior
- Easily agitated/increased aggressive behaviors
- Egocentric behaviors/difficulty seeing how behaviors affect others
- Depression
- Increased or decreased interest in sexual behavior

Believe me, this is the short list. So as you can see, an injury to any part of the brain, whether the Cerebral Cortex, Occipital Lobe, Temporal Lobes, Brain Stem or Cerebellum, can result in changes that affect your life and your ability to function in it. We strive to help our clients achieve functional goals that will restore their ability to participate in their communities, with their families and in their jobs. We also work to support agencies that promote brain injury awareness and brain injury prevention, including the **Brain Injury Association of Utah**. The BIAU was created in 1984 and is a member of the Brain Injury Association of America. BIAU provides support groups, a toll-free help line (800-281-8442), a resource library, community education, conferences, return-to-work program, legislative liaison and many other valuable services.....Above all, protect your head and the heads of the people you love.

SAVE THE DATE – ASPA’s 2nd Annual Career Fair

Friday, March 24, 2006 – 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DSBVI)

250 North 1950 West, Room 227, SLC

Watch for more information!

Employers interested in participating in the Career Fair should contact Sara McCormick at sara.mccormick@cpga.utah.edu or call 801-585-7764.