

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION/HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

September 21, 2004 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The meeting was called to order and presided over by Senator Jeanne Lucas. Six items were presented to the Joint Subcommittee on Education/Health and Human Services:

1. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) presented a plan to establish five receipt-supported positions: four within the Curriculum and Reform Services Area and one within the Financial and Business Services Area. Each of the new positions is fully supported by receipts. This plan is being presented to the Full Commission through this subcommittee report in accordance with the consultation requirement before the establishment of these positions.
2. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) presented a plan to establish 3 receipt-supported positions within the Division of Public Health. Each of the new positions is fully supported by receipts. This plan is being presented to the Full Commission through this subcommittee report in accordance with the consultation requirement before the establishment of these positions.
3. The Department of Health and Human Services provided an update on the receipt-supported positions established in House Bill 1414. Of the 71 FTE's created/approved in the bill, actual grants have been received for 35 of those positions, 34 have funding pending, and 2 were not funded. One position established as a Public Health Supervisor II has been reclassified as a Human Services Planner/Evaluator IV (Wellness Coordinator). The committee will receive future updates on these positions.
4. The Department of Health and Human Services provided information on the Social Services Block Grant. The Department plans to budget \$150,000 that was budgeted in FY04 for the NC Interagency Council for the Coordination of Homeless Program and not used. The \$150,000 will be

used to pay for services/expenses incurred in this program, as was intended in the original FY04 block grant plan.

5. The Department of Health and Human Services provided information on an increase to the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Block Grant as a result of three counties not using their full allocations and receipt of additional federal funds reallocated to states. The amount of the funds is \$2,235,355. These funds will be used in accordance with the CCDF block grant.

6. The Department of Health and Human Services presented its plan to implement a Medicaid assessment program for both state-owned and non state-owned Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded (ICF-MR) facilities, as required by House Bill 1414. The fee will be \$10.76 per occupied bed per day for the state owned centers and \$9.33 per occupied bed per day for the non-state owned centers. This assessment will provide a local match in drawing down federal funds; therefore, the non-state facilities will receive a net increase of 7% in their reimbursement rates and the state facilities' fee will be offset by federal funding used to increase the reimbursement rate equal to the amount of the new fee.