

**Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division**  
**February 8, 2005**  
**3:00 p.m. Room 123**  
**Chair, Senator John C. Hottinger**

Present:

Hottinger, Chair  
Bob Kierlin  
Gary Kubly  
Sean Nienow  
Sandy Pappas  
Linda Scheid  
Betsy Wergin

Absent:

Dan Sparks

Senator Hottinger called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

A quorum was present.

**AGENDA ITEM #1: Clarification of Hand-outs.** Karen Carlson, Department of Education, gave an overview of hand-outs given to Senators. The hand-outs are: Minnesota's Early Learning Standards, Alignment of Minnesota's Academic Standards with the Early Childhood indicators of Progress, and the Assessment Test for children. Senator Hottinger also explained his opinion/editorial hand-outs included in the folder.

**AGENDA ITEM #2: Legislative Auditor's Report on Child Care Reimbursement Rates,** John Yunker, Program Evaluation Coordinator, Legislative Auditor's Office.


Mr. Yunker walked the committee through the OLA's report on Child Care Reimbursement Rates. He covered the focus of study, (Maximum rates, and methods used by DHS to set the maximum rates) the findings of the study, and recommendations therefrom.

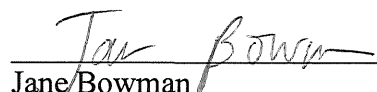
**AGENDA ITEM #3: Department of Human Services Legislative Report on Cost Containment Options in the Child Care Assistance Program,** Chuck Johnson, Assistant Commissioner for Children and Family Services.

- Mr. Johnson opened with comments from the OLA's report. He disagreed that the action to use regional rates (in 2002) was within the law.
- Mr. Johnson gave cost containment options, which were broad-based changes in the 2003 legislative session.
- Ann Sessoms, Transition to economic stability with the Department of Education, and Cherie Kotilinek, manager of the child care assistance program at the Department of Human Services gave an overview of the Legislative Report on Cost Containment Options in Child Care Assistance.
  - They spoke about goals, policy and the recommendations of DHS. The main recommendation was that the Basic Sliding Fee allocation formula not be changed until further evaluations can be made.

Senator Hottinger adjourned the meeting at

Respectfully submitted:

  
Senator John C. Hottinger  
Division Chair

  
Jane Bowman  
Division Secretary

# **Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division**

Sen. John Hottinger, Chair

**Tuesday, February 8, 2005**

3 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Room 123 State Capitol

## **Agenda**

1. Legislative Auditor's Report on Child Care Reimbursement Rates
  - John Yunker, Program Evaluation Coordinator
  
2. Department of Human Services Legislative Report on Cost Containment Options in the Child Care Assistance Program
  - Chuck Johnson, Assistant Commissioner for Children and Family Services