



980602

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY III
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 16, 1998

SUITE 212
525 PARK STREET
ST. PAUL, MN 55103-2106
TELEPHONE: (612) 297-5963

Senator Leonard R. Price
Chair, State Government Operations Budget
Division
235 Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Thomas Rukavina
Chair, State Government Finance Division
471 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: DOF/AGO Funding Task Force Progress Report

Dear Senator Price and Representative Rukavina:

As you are aware, during the last legislative session, the Department of Finance and the Attorney General's Office were directed to form a joint executive-legislative task force to look at the availability and funding for legal services to meet the needs of state government.

The Task Force was convened on July 8, 1998, and has held meetings since that time. A report summarizing the group's activities is attached along with a list of the Task Force's members. A final report will be issued on January 15, 1999.

Sincerely,

Peggy Ingison
State Budget Director
Department of Finance

Rebecca Spartz
Director of Administration
Attorney General's Office

This document is made available electronically by the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library as part of an ongoing digital archiving project. <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/lrl.asp>

Facsimile: (612) 297-2079 • TDD: (612) 282-2525 • Toll Free Lines: (800) 657-3787 (Voice), (800) 366-4812 (TDD)

RECEIVED
DEC 28 1998
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY
STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ST. PAUL, MN 55155

STATUS REPORT
JOINT EXECUTIVE – LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE
on the
AVAILABILITY AND FUNDING FOR LEGAL SERVICES
November 13, 1998

The Office of the Attorney General (AGO) and the Department of Finance (DOF) began meeting early this past summer to identify membership for the task force. The two offices chose a broad base of members include staff from both offices as well as the legislature, and partner and pooled agencies. The attached list details individual members.

The Joint Executive-Legislative Task Force has met several times. The task force members first familiarized themselves with how the AGO functions and how the current billing method affects both partner and pooled agencies. In addition, they reviewed the report to the legislature on Funding Legal Services prepared by an earlier task force in March 1994 that led to the current funding method, known as the collaborative method of funding legal services. From there the task force developed a list of issues associated with the current funding mechanism. Finally, the task force formed three sub-committees to take a closer look at the services the AGO provides and how the funding mechanism affects the delivery of those services.

The charge given to each sub-committee was:

All sub-committees are asked to review the original task force committee report and the list of issues in the process of accomplishing their charge. Each sub-committee must present the full committee with a final report. That report final should include a summary of all issues and options discussed, a preferred option for funding, an explanation of why each option was chosen or rejected, and suggestions for improvement.

The three sub-committees the task force developed and their charges were:

Billing Rate: Review the cost basis and cost allocation methodology employed by the AGO to determine if the process results in service costs rates that are appropriate. Evaluate the impact of including all cost components in the rate setting process. Determine if the process should be modified to achieve more appropriate rates.

Law Enforcement and Outside Services: Identify the composition of services needs and the criteria for determining what services are provided and at what level. Evaluate funding options for provided services.

Partner and Pooled Agencies: Evaluate the present method of funding legal services through both direct appropriations to partner agencies and direct appropriations to the AGO for non-partner agencies in light of the original task force report. Determine if the intended goals and objectives of the system, such as increased accountability, are being achieved. Evaluate alternative funding methods to determine which, if any, would function better.

Subcommittee work is currently in process and each has met at least once and has been given wide latitude in how to accomplish its tasks. Some have invited other AGO clients to join, others have enlisted experts to provide specialized knowledge needed to fully understand the issues and develop solutions. This has provided the subcommittees with additional perspectives and expertise that exceeds the abilities of the task force members. Currently, subcommittees are working to identify ways to improve the funding mechanism as well as ways to ensure accountability for legal service costs. Each subcommittee will conclude its work with a report to the whole task force.

When the task force receives final reports from each sub-committee it will begin the task of developing recommendations for improving the current funding system and for improving the availability of legal services. The task force will conclude by January 15, 1999, with the submission of a final report to the legislature.

NAME	AGENCY	ADDRESS	PHONE #
Anderson, Carl	Human Rights	190 East 5th Street St. Paul, MN 55101	296-5674
Cohoon, Ed	Transportation	395 John Ireland Blvd., 4XX DOT Bldg. St. Paul, MN 55155	296-7942
Erickson, Dennis	Human Services	444 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155	296-6635
Greeman, Rosalie	MnSCU	550 Cedar, 203 Capitol Sq. St. Paul, MN 55101	297-1309
Hadley, Katherine (Kit)	Housing Finance Agency	400 Sibley St., #300, St. Paul MN 55101	296-5738
Houliston, Michael	Labor and Industry	443 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155	215-0366
Ingison, Peggy	Finance	658 Cedar, 4XX Centennial Office St. Paul, MN 55155	296-2438
Johnson, David	Finance	658 Cedar, 4XX Centennial Office St. Paul, MN 55155	297-4397
King, Jim	Finance	658 Cedar, 4XX Centennial Office St. Paul, MN 55155	296-7964
Lewellan, Gail	Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155	296-9556
Lundeen, Kevin	Senate	G-22 Capitol St. Paul, MN 55155	296-2727
Marx, Bill	House	373 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155	296-7176
Misukanis, Mark	Senate	G-24 Capitol St. Paul, MN 55155	296-3817
Nobles, James	Legislative-Auditor	658 Cedar, 1XX Centennial Office St. Paul, MN 55155	296-4710
Paddock, Lee	Attorney General	445 MN St., 900 NCL Tower St. Paul, MN 55101	296-6597
Peterson, Joan	Attorney General	525 Park, Suite 200 St. Paul, MN 55103	296-2731
Roberts, Helen	House	374 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155	296-4117
Seha, Ann	Attorney General	445 MN St., 900 NCL Tower St. Paul, MN 55101	297-8755
Sheehy, Lee (Ex Officio)	Attorney General	102 Capitol St. Paul, MN 55155	296-2351
Smith, Lorna	Finance	658 Cedar, 4XX Centennial Office St. Paul, MN 55155	282-5065
Spartz, Rebecca	Attorney General	525 Park, Suite 212 St. Paul, MN 55103	297-5969
Thorvig, Lisa	Pollution Control Agency	520 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155	296-7305
Vikmanis, Julie	Nursing Home Admin. Board	2829 University Ave. SE, #440 Minneapolis, MN 55414	617-2117
Whitney, Jean	Corrections	1450 Energy Park Dr., #200 St. Paul, MN 55108	642-0297