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Interim Highlights



A View of the Inner Dome

The interior of the Capitol dome can be seen from the Rotunda.

photos: Martin Valent

Agriculture and Agri-business Committee

Farmers' Markets

Committee members heard from WVU Extension Service agents from around the state regarding the status of farmers markets during this month's interim meeting.

WVU's Extension Service mission is to develop and teach best practices for sustainable agriculture, for responsible use of renewable resources, and stewardship of natural resources. They work to improve West Virginia's communities, workforce, and the economy through teaching, research and service.

One agent told the committee that local farms brought \$7.1 billion into West Virginia thanks to the state's 23,000 farmers. Of that, each farmer received about 20 percent of what they produced, which is why the extension service feels that there needs to be a change in the way they do business so that the farmer can receive more from what they sell.

There has been an increase in the number of farmers' markets in West Virginia this year alone from 31 to 70. The WVU extension service believes consumers are no longer making purchases based on price, but instead are looking for quality local products. An example of this is the Health Sciences Center's Food Services Director contacted the WVU extension service begging to buy local foods.

The extension agent for Fayette and Nicholas counties told committee members that his area began with one farmer's market and four producers. Currently, there are three locations with 15 producers. Each producer can make approximately \$400 a day at the markets. He also told the committee that farmers are facing problems with disease.

Upshur County's extension agent told the committee that our food is coming 2,500 miles away and with the way things are going we may see the day when all food is imported. He said in order to make sure this doesn't happen we need to teach ourselves that we can grow food here. One of the problems facing local farms is the fact that it is hard to compete. That is why the extension service is looking into various methods of extending the growing season and other various options in order to keep up with the competition.

A local farmer from Monroe County told the committee that her local farmer's market has taken their business online, and the number of buyers is up since last year. A problem for the local farmer, she said, is the fact that many have jobs outside of farming making it hard to advertise and market their product.

Interim Meeting Schedule & Agendas

Please visit West Virginia Legislature's Web site:

<http://www.legis.state.wv.us/committees/interims/intcomsched.cfm>

Children, Juveniles & Other Issues, Select Comm.

Foster Care

The committee heard a discussion on foster care issues during September's interim meeting. A foster parent couple from Wirt County gave an emotional and troubling firsthand account of a recent situation they had endured while caring for three foster children.

The couple had three siblings sent to them and after the first few weeks of the stay, the foster parents understood everything to be going fine. According to the parents the children were excelling in school and receiving regular and constructive visitation with their biological parents.

Shortly thereafter a judge agreed that things were going well, ordering the children to stay in the care of the family until further notice. According to the parents, a few days later a case worker that had nothing to do with this case, called the family and told them that she would have the children taken away and that she could make the judge believe anything she said.

According to the account, the following day a caseworker informed the family the children were being moved immediately. Confused as to why this was happening and hurt by the news, the parents talked to the caseworker's supervisor who said that the children would not be moved until they got to the bottom of this problem.

According to the foster parents, state workers came the next day and took the kids out of school, telling the couple that they did not have to discuss this matter with them. The children were not even allowed to return to the house to collect their belongings. The foster parents have had no contact with the children since.

That morning caseworkers had filed several charges against the parents, accusing them of among other things, not feeding the children on demand. The couple vehemently denies those claims, saying the only time the children were denied food was in the last few moments before dinner when they were afraid the children would spoil their appetite.

The simply want to know why this situation occurred. A caseworker that later reviewed the case came to the determination that it was simply a large misunderstanding. However, that misunderstanding carried a lot of weight because according to the couple, their reputation as foster parents has been ruined and no children have been sent to them since.

The couple believes the one "rogue" social worker is to blame and that foster parents are often treated worse and with less respect than the biological parents the children are being taken away from. The couple mentioned that this is just one of many troubling experiences they have had over the years as foster parents.

John D. Law, Assistant Secretary for the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, and Kathy King, Director of Policy for Foster Care & Child Protective Services, addressed the committee following the couple's account.

They could not address the issue specifically due to privacy and legal concerns, however they did say that for every horror story like this, there are countless success stories of the foster care system that simply don't garner as much attention. They also said that in the foster care system the number one goal if it's possible is the re-unification of the family.

They mentioned that there are approximately 2,500 foster parents in the state and 3,700-4,000 foster children.

While the conceded that social workers taking kids directly out of school might not be ideal, it is efficient when foster parents determine they can no longer handle the children or when the children are fleeing an abusive situation.

They mentioned that the social worker turnover rate, which stands at 30 percent, is a real problem in the system while noting that all foster parents in the state go through a 10-week training session.

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Economic Development , Joint Commission on

Regional Contracting Assistance Center

This month, committee members heard from the President of the Regional Contracting Assistance Center (RCAC), who provided some background information on the program and how it has been helping West Virginia businesses.

RCAC is a non-profit organization that was established in 1987 with the purpose of helping businesses, both small and large, do business with, and only with, state and federal governments. They work with clients to identify, compete for, win, and perform government contracts. RCAC is the only WV Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP) and in the past 22 years their clients have been awarded over \$1,907,676,789 in documented contracts. RCAC and other PTAPs around the country receive funding from the Defense Logistics Agency. RCAC is also one of very few programs to receive funds and support from their state.

From October 2008 to June of this year, RCAC clients have reported \$13,119,891 in contracts. There are currently 94 clients actively pursuing government contracting.

The RCAC has seven personnel spread throughout the state, five are full time and two are part-time.

Committee members also heard from various West Virginia businesses that have used RCAC’s services including one small business owner in Mingo County who was looking to diversify his company by looking at government contracts. The business owner told the committee that the bidding process for a government contract could be rather tedious and difficult. An RCAC specialist guided the business owner through the process.

Another West Virginia business told the committee that they too were looking to diversify their business but didn’t know how to get started in obtaining government contracts. An RCAC specialist would look at their bids to make sure they were in order before they were submitted and were available when the company had any questions.

Those businesses looking for help in government contracts meet with an RCAC specialist first for a free one-hour consultation to see if the business is really ready for government contracts. If they are, the business pays \$180 per year for RCAC’s services.

Many committee members remarked that they had never heard of RCAC until just recently and thought that the organization is such an asset to the state. RCAC President Hudson told the committee that since the organization is federally funded one of the stipulations is RCAC cannot advertise, therefore they are heard about through conferences and word of mouth. She also told the committee that even surrounding states refer businesses to RCAC.

Education Accountability, Legis. Oversight Comm. on

Local School Improvement Councils

The Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability heard from the State Superintendent of Schools regarding a variety of topics during September Interim meetings including local school improvement councils and incentives to improve the performance of schools and teachers.

Regarding the Local School Improvement Councils (LSIC), the superintendent stated that opinions differ on effectiveness of these councils but he agreed that very few of them are doing all that they are empowered to do, and the state is trying to find ways to encourage them to do better.

Commission members and the superintendent stated that some times the problem may be a school principal who fails to give good leadership and other times an unmotivated council may be to blame. The Commission agreed in the assessment that LSICs across the state need encouragement to do their jobs, but also wondered if encouragement could really accomplish much.

Another issue which was discussed by the superintendent revolved around the way the state can use incentives to try and improve both the production of teachers and the



schools. He stated that an evaluation committee has been formed to look at a broad range of issues that affect the quality of teaching. They have solicited ideas from schools, communities, and other sources, and are about to begin their work of developing ways to improve school and individual teacher performance.

Among the ideas being discussed are incentives directly influencing pay. Another idea is to enable teachers to engage in research-based professional development, learning new concepts proven to work in the classroom and bringing those concepts into the classroom to benefit the students. A third idea was school wide incentives, for teachers and staff, when a team effort over the course of a year produces measurable improvement.

Education Subcommittee B - Higher Education

Higher Education Funding

The Education Subcommittee dealing with higher education heard from representatives of the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) who would like to change the way higher education is funded. Currently the state funds higher ed on a “base-plus” system, which means funding is built on last year’s level, adjusted for inflation, and may include money for such things as raises.

The committee was told that the problem relates to that fact that how the funds allocated during the previous year isn’t developed based on any type of formal policy meaning it wouldn’t reflect the types of students you have or the types of courses they’re enrolled in. It also doesn’t recognize institutions whose enrollments increased or decreased. For instance, WVU grew from 22,000 students to 29,000 in a decade, while some others declined.

The committee was also told that the state needs to increase college going rates for adults, improve graduation rates and improve the quality of graduates in specific program areas, for example teacher education. HEPC has a goal in mind to “develop a policy to align resources with outcomes.” For the past two years, HEPC has been working on a new weighted-funding formula. It would account

for enrollment, but also take into consideration factors such as the courses students are enrolled in. It would also offer performance incentives for schools, and take into account “peer equity”, which is the level of funding at peer institutions in other states.

The committee was told the state, in theory, adopted peer equity years ago but it was never actually employed. The representative presented a report that showed 36 states use some kind of funding formula. Weighted formulas will take into account the level of instruction of the course and its field of discipline. They often weigh four levels of instruction: Lower-division undergrad (first two years); Upper-division undergrad (last two years); Masters or first professional degree; and Doctoral study. Courses in classroom settings with large groups typically get lower funding than high-level science classes with lab work, for example.

The representative stated that the Legislature doesn’t have to approve the plan, but state law requires HEPC to have a finance policy that provides equitable distribution of revenues across institutions. But HEPC wishes to work with this committee to show what other states are doing, including their best practices and what West Virginia needs to accomplish.

HEPC would like to present as much new information as possible at each interim this year, and have a formula in place this academic year to frame discussions for the next budgetary cycle.

Education Subcommittee C - Public Education

Deaf and Blind Students

During this month’s interim meeting, committee members heard from the Department of Education Coordinator for Deaf and Blind students, regarding an overview of the number of deaf and/or blind children in West Virginia schools and the services that are offered to them.

There are currently 270 students in the state that are blind or who have low vision, 84 percent of those are in their local public school while the other 16 percent attend the



West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind. There are 433 children in West Virginia who are deaf, which 80 percent of them attend their local public school while the other 20 percent attend the School for the Deaf and Blind. With these numbers, the coordinator told the committee that 20-25 percent of these students attend the School for the Deaf and Blind while the other 80-85 percent attend public schools.

Various types of support is provided to both the teachers and those students who require unique instructional needs in the classroom such as the Instructional Resource Center which provides specialized services relating to training, education, or adaptive reading or information access needs of blind or other persons with disabilities in local school districts or special school settings.

Other support for both teachers and students are the 90 educational interpreters that are located statewide. These interpreters make the communication flow more smoothly from teacher to student.

The spokesperson then introduced the committee to the Superintendent for the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, who discussed all of the activities and support provided at the school.

The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind, founded in 1870, is considered a charter school and is available for children at the age of 3 who are blind, deaf or both. Those attending the school can stay until they have reached the age of 21.

One of the big emphases at the school is career prep programs and teaching 21st Century skills. Focusing on these areas of study is preparing for jobs that haven't even been created yet, Carey said.

Career and Technical education focused on at the school includes agriculture education, construction, business, graphic arts, radio broadcasting and culinary arts.

The school also provides specialized classes for students with hearing or vision impairments such as:

- Orientation and Mobility

- Independent Living Skills
- Braille
- Adaptive Technology
- Sign Language

Students at the school also participate in APTA, WESTEST, Golden Horseshoe Test, ACT and SAT assessments.

The education coordinator told the committee that there are numerous extracurricular activities for the students at the school including sports teams, field trips, arts and crafts, daily physical activities and school clubs and organizations.

This year, the number of students enrolled at the school is 1124. There is no cost to send a child to the school. All the school asks is that each child be provided their own clothing and pocket money.

Luke Lee Listening

Committee members also heard from the, founder of Luke Lee Listening, which is the first auditory oral deaf program in West Virginia.

The program, which was founded in 2006, is funded through a grant from the West Virginia Department of Education, Office of Special Programs, Extended and Early Learning and is provided support from Marshall University Department of Communication Disorders.

It is the goal of the program to teach deaf children to talk, and talk well, . The Parent Infant Program serves children from the time they are diagnosed with hearing loss through preschool age. A team is formed with the child's family, audiologists and birth to three therapists already working with the child in order to create a plan and begin working to help the child access sound and prepare for language.

The preschool program is for hearing-impaired children between the ages of two to six whose families choose for their children to be oral communicators. It is a half-day program that combines teaching typical pre-kindergarten skills with intensive auditory and language training.

The program is free of charge but even with that it is having a difficult time with referrals.

Higher Education Personnel

Higher Education Personnel Study

Committee members heard from various speakers who were appointed by the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) to study the personnel issues facing employees in public higher education. The committee began their studies in 2005 and concluded last year. The Legislature passed legislation in 2005 requesting the HEPC do a study regarding public higher education personnel and wanted them to focus on:

- Reviewing statutes, rules, guidelines, interpretations and other statements of policy regarding classification.
- Evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the state-wide classification and compensation system and examining alternatives.
- Reviewing job titles and responsibilities to determine if certain families of jobs should be classified or non-classified.
- Identifying unnecessary state-level paperwork requirements related to personnel and recommending methods to eliminate them while maintaining strict fiscal accountability.

The committee first acknowledged that the current system needed changes but that there wasn't necessarily a need to eliminate the current classification system, but rather to make the changes necessary to meet current needs. With this in mind, the committee set various goals and provided various recommendations during the three-year time span. Since this was such a huge undertaking, the committee was divided into numerous subcommittees such as classification, market, compensation, and performance management.

The classification committee looked at various issues and set numerous goals as well as recommendations including:

- Reviewing all the components of the classification system in public higher education and then recommend improvements with the compensable factor definitions and weighting. One improvement would be to have the Working Conditions and Physical Demands factor changed to Health, Safety and Physical Considerations to also include mental and/or emotional demands of job.
- Simplify the Position Information Questionnaire (PIQ) by providing software that will allow for an online PIQ to be completed in 10-15 minutes as compared to the current hour or more PIQ. The software would also eliminate the need for filing and would also provide an online system of tracking the PIQ as it moves through the process of leaving an employee and receiving by the supervisor. Costs for the software will cost around \$151,500 with an annual license fee of \$130,000 thereafter.
- Restructure job titles and job families so that the number of job families is reduced from 45 to 11 making for a more manageable review of PIQ's.
- Develop an on-campus appeal process

The public higher education personnel study's findings can be found at <http://www.wweightsteps.org/>.

Equal Pay Commission

Reviewing Equal Pay Initiatives

In September, staff counsel highlighted equal pay initiatives from three states, Minnesota, Maine and Maryland.

In Minnesota a study by the Hay Group found that occupational segregation of jobs was the leading factor in the wage gap. The more women in the occupation, the lower the pay overall. The Hay Group evaluated all state government job classes and assigned a score to each using the Hay Method. In 1982, the legislature appropriated approximately \$21 million to make adjustments to salaries. Approximately 8,500 employees in 200 job classes received pay equity increases. Minnesota has a Pay Equity Coordinator within its human resources agency (Minnesota Management and Budget). The Pay Equity Coordinator monitors compliance



with the State Government Pay Equity Statute, which includes making salary adjustments.

In Maryland the two factors that have the most significant effect on the amount of pay are the differences in industries and occupations that males and females choose and work patterns. The Institute for Women’s Policy Research (IWPR) used of U.S. Census Bureau data to conduct a study of pay equity based on gender and race in both public and private sector employment. The Maryland Equal Pay Commission also examined data from pay equity complaints filed with the Maryland Human Relations Commission. After reviewing the data, the Commission recommended assigning authority and providing funding to enforce the Maryland equal pay statute to a specific state agency.

Finally, in Maine, recently implemented administrative rules require both public and private sector employers to pay male and female employees who work in comparable jobs comparable pay. The rules include a gradual process of equalizing pay, and the state is offering technical assistance for implementation to businesses. However, employers do not have to raise wages of those who are underpaid. The rules do not prevent an employer from lowering the wages of the higher paid employee to achieve pay equity.

The committee plans to discuss in future meetings ways to incorporate any of the initiatives discussed into West Virginia.

Finance, Joint Standing Committee on

State Economic Status Update

In its monthly meeting, the Joint Committee on Finance continued to review the state’s economic status. Appearing before the committee was the Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Revenue who provided a wrap up of Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

West Virginia ended FY 2009 with a budget surplus of \$168 million. The Rainy Day Fund holds approximately \$511 million.

Although the financial experts were pleased with the surplus, they predicted the future to be filled with budget holes. With the on-going problem with Other Postemployment Benefits’ (OPEB) liability of \$7 billion, there are declines in incoming revenues. Estimates maintain the collection on consumer sales tax is down by \$70 million, which is driven by the economy. Coal production decreased during the April to June period by 13.3%. Because electric power generation fell during January through April of 2009, coal stocks at West Virginia power plants doubled to 6.3 million tons. Due to recessionary job losses over the last six months income withholding tax growth has also slowed. Auto sales too are down by 11%.

West Virginia may have weathered the recession better than surrounding states but lawmakers were told to expect a decline in revenues in the coming months. The year-to-date 2010 revenues are 9.3% lower than last year. When asked if the state was faced with a trend in decline overall, the Department of Revenue spokesperson indicated he would like to hold off his comments on any trends until December of this year since the state has just entered into the 2010 Fiscal Year.

Finance Subcommittee A

State Trooper Overtime Compensation

A spokesperson for the West Virginia State Police answered questions of committee members during the September meetings.

The committee members identified a problem with state trooper overtime. Typically state troopers have court on their days off and get paid overtime for that. Therefore, they could theoretically get paid overtime every week of the year. The troopers also receive extra pay for their time when they are on call and called to respond at night.

There is an issue with response time in some of the more rural counties. In certain counties troopers don’t live in the counties in which they work, which can cause major delays in response time.



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Lawmakers agreed that these problems all stem from a lack of manpower. Lawmakers were told the state police would like to have more troopers working around the clock in every county 365 days a year but that they simply don't have the manpower.

With more manpower they could spread out who was on call and wouldn't have to have the same troopers in court all the time, thereby eliminating a lot of overtime pay, not to mention achieve faster response time in the rural counties.

Lawmakers are looking at the ratio of state troopers to the general population in West Virginia and Sloan is going to provide lawmakers with other state's state trooper numbers at next month's interim meeting.

Finance Subcommittee B

Taxing High-Voltage Power Lines

The committee heard discussion on SCR 57 which requests that the Joint Committee on Government and Finance study a proposed new state business and occupation tax on high-voltage electric power transmission lines. General Counsel with the Public Service Commission (PSC) spoke to the committee.

Lawmakers continue to question the proposal, saying they need more information on legal aspects of his plan. Earlier this year, the governor proposed taxing new transmission lines of at least 500 kilovolts. Lawmakers repeated concerns during the meeting, saying that the tax could violate the U.S. Constitution's interstate commerce clause.

Critics of the proposal say it's a distraction to get public support for the lines, which many residents oppose

One lawmaker asked the PSC general counsel if legislators could ask the state Supreme Court whether the plan violates the interstate commerce clause. PSC Counsel said it's unlikely the court would take up the question, because the final version of the proposal could end up looking much different at the end of the legislative process. The lawmaker is worried power companies will challenge the tax in court, after new power lines are approved.

The committee chairman said the committee's attorney would research the issue.

The tax debate comes as Allegheny Energy and American Electric Power seek approval for the Potomac-Appalachian Transmission Highline (PATH), a multi-state line that would cross 13 counties in West Virginia. Last week, the Maryland Public Service Commission rejected PATH's application.

One lawmaker asked the PSC Counsel whether the agency could delay its PATH proceedings in light of Maryland's decision. In response, he did not know of any current laws that would make the PSC stop its review based on other states' actions.

The same lawmaker also told the PSC that some of his constituents have complained that PATH's land agents are already approaching them about buying their property, implying that the PSC has already approved the project. He urged the counsel to tell the agents to stop this practice.

Finance Subcommittee C

Other Post Employment Benefits

During September's interim meeting, Finance Subcommittee C heard from State Financial Advisor and Senior Managing Director of Public Resources Advisory Group (PRAG), regarding Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB).

According to PRAG's report, West Virginia has made a number of responsible financial decisions such as reducing Workers' Compensation unfunded liability from \$3.9 billion in 2004 to around \$1.4 billion. West Virginia was also only one of a handful of states in the country to finish Fiscal Year 2009 with a balanced budget without using its "Rainy Day Funds" or federal stimulus money and was only one of two states to receive an upgrade during this year's financial crisis. All three National Rating Agencies have acknowledged West Virginia's continued strong financial performance.

With all of the report's good news, there was also some bad news such as the state's OPEB liabilities, which the financial advisor told the committee, is a national problem. An OPEB study group in California found that current



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health care premiums require 10.7 percent of the state's overall budget and that will grow to require over 41 percent within 30 years if something is not changed now. .

Health care costs in West Virginia are rising faster than revenue growth, according to PRAG. Average costs increase by approximately 6.3 percent to 7.5 percent while revenues are increasing by only 2-3 percent. The Pew Center on the States found that making the problem worse is the fact that baby boomers are retiring in record numbers. It is projected that the growth of the elderly population will increase by 80 percent between 2010 and 2030.

West Virginia's OPEB is relatively high compared to other states because of its low populace and income levels that are not as high as other states. The current Annual Required Contribution (ARC) in West Virginia is \$795 million but the advisor told committee members that it is going to rise into the billions.

In order to combat the OPEB problem, other states are doing everything from increasing retiree contribution to tightening eligibility by cutting out spousal insurance coverage. There were various options out there for West Virginia to consider in paying the OPEB liability including raising employee contributions, using sin taxes or gaming/lottery revenues, or using bonds.

Forest Management Review Commission

Wood Products Industry

The committee heard from representatives from the Appalachian Hardwood Center (AHC), the Wood Education Research Center (WERC), and the West Virginia Wood Technical Center. Lawmakers received a briefing on each organization describing how each of them supports the wood products industry in West Virginia.

The Appalachian Hardwood Center (AHC) at West Virginia University is a jointly supported center of the WVU Extension Service and the WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Consumer Sciences.

The center was established in 1987 by the West Virginia Legislature to provide technical and research support for the state's growing wood products industry. The AHC is a center of excellence for outreach, extension and technology transfer, professional development, and applied research. The AHC serves sustainable natural resource-based businesses and communities as well as private forest landowners and natural resource professionals in the Appalachian forest region.

The WERC, located in Princeton, WV is a USDA Forest Service facility with offices, training facilities, and a rough mill. The WERC mission is to facilitate interaction and information exchange with the forest products industry to enhance opportunities for sustained forest products production in the eastern hardwood forest region of the United States.

The Wood Education and Resource Center supports managerial and technical innovation to help keep businesses competitive. It provides state-of-the-art training, technology transfer, networking opportunities, applied research, and information.

WERC serves the primary and secondary hardwood manufacturing industries located in the 35 states of the eastern hardwood forest region.

The West Virginia Wood Technical Center, located in Elkins, WV responds to the need for knowledgeable, skilled employees in the wood products manufacturing industry by providing specialized training programs that allow people to succeed in the current technology-driven workplace.

Students that complete their courses are well prepared for technician-level positions in the growing, highly competitive wood industry.

In addition to eight specialized training programs, the center is one of two schools in the nation that offers a 14-week National Hardwood Lumber Association (NHLA) lumber inspection training program as well as a short course on the same curriculum, which is three days to one week long.

The 14-week curriculum provides students with both the technical knowledge of the NHLA grading rules, and the



practical skills and experience necessary to become a lumber inspector. Classes meet from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Students are provided classroom instruction and extensive hands-on experience in their modern training facility.

The instructor is an NHLA graduate, and is a skilled inspector with many years of experience in the hardwood lumber industry. Upon graduation, students receive an NHLA certificate in a formal graduation ceremony.

The short course is recommended for anyone wanting to become familiar with NHLA Lumber Grading Rules. It provides yardmen, sawyers, edgemen, management personnel, sales and office staff with an introduction to hardwood lumber inspection.

Government Organization - Subcommittee B

DOH/DOT Cost Savings

This subcommittee heard a report from the Transportation Secretary and Commissioner of Highways, about trimming back on consulting fees charged by engineering firms has brought a dramatic cost savings, leaving more funds to build and improve highways.

The Division of Highways spent an average of \$75 million on such costs over the last 10 years, however, this past year that expense was lowered to just over \$12 million. New ideas, designed to lower overall costs, have been implemented in the last year leaving more money for highway work.

One of these ideas is called “design build“, in which the contractor and engineer work in tandem on a project, designing the project as it is constructed. This serves to save time, which in turn saves money.

Addressing a question from the committee regarding a shortage of engineers within the DOH the transportation secretary told the committee that there is no shortage of them on the state’s payroll. He stated that DOH has more engineers working for us now than in the history of the

agency, adding that the DOT is experiencing no difficulty attracting qualified engineers.

Another means of trimming the budget has come by abandoning the old concept of negotiating contracts based on man-hours. Instead the DOT uses a process that calls for “a reasonable fee” based on the department’s labor rate, plus the average consultant’s overhead rate.

Other ways the department is cutting back on costs includes the fact that more projects are being planned in-house, eliminating the added cost the DOH has sustained by using consultants. The secretary to promised continue to update the Legislature as to these cost saving efforts.

Health, Select Committee on

Methadone Clinics

President of the American Association for Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD), spoke to committee members this month regarding the effectiveness of methadone treatment centers.

Methadone treatment is medically prescribed and relieves drug withdrawal symptoms, reduces opiate craving, and allows normalization of the body’s function. This form of treatment has been the most widely studied approach to opiate addiction and has been used for over 35 years.

The AATOD president told the committee that drug addiction is a treatable disease and that science has proven that the use of medications is a successful intervention. Methadone’s effectiveness, and the absence of any serious, long-term side effects from using it have been demonstrated in numerous studies conducted over the past 30 years with outcomes such as:

- Decline in the consumption of illicit drugs by 40 percent of pretreatment levels during the first year
- Crime is reduced substantially
- Fewer individuals become infected with HIV
- Individuals functioning improves



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There are around 179,000 individuals in the United States who are receiving substance abuse treatment and health-related services in methadone treatment facilities, which was noted to be is cost-effective care. Large-scale analysis has found that for every dollar spent on methadone treatment, more than \$4 is saved in social and health care costs.

The AATOD president also addressed the issue of methadone treatment deaths stating that most of these problems stem from using it as an analgesic and the distribution of it through pharmacies. “Data confirms a correlation between increased methadone distribution through pharmacy channels and the rise in methadone associate mortality. The growing use of oral methadone, prescribed and dispensed for the outpatient management of chronic pain, explains the dramatic increase in methadone consumption and the growing availability of the drug for diversion to abuse,” he said. He also stated that patients should remain in treatment as long as he/she benefits from continued use of the medication and the structure of an OTP setting and with the array of comprehensive clinical services, as required by federal accreditation standards. He also recommends that communication among each treatment center would be helpful in making sure that a patient is not receiving double doses of methadone or other treatments.

He also stressed to the committee that methadone itself is not treatment, it is a medication and that it needs to be combined with services like addiction counseling.

LOCHHRA

Behavioral Health

Acting Commissioner for the Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities, Vickie Jones, provided a department update to committee members during this month’s interim meeting.

Through a court decision in 1981, West Virginia’s Behavioral Health Department was given a list of issues that needed to be fixed. Through the years since then, the department has reduced the unresolved issues down to three: Forensic, TBI, and Case Management.

The department was called back to court regarding compliance with the 1981 court order and ended up in mediation. Through mediation, the acting commissioner told the committee that the department has agreed to a list of items that West Virginia will provide appropriate behavioral health services in the least restrictive setting within three years.

Agreed remedies over the next three years include:

- Funding for 35 care coordinators, who will be evenly distributed throughout the state’s two behavioral hospitals.
- Building five to seven group homes and five to seven day treatment centers. In the first year, the department hopes to have three group homes built.
- Adding 143 new residential slots in community supportive housing
- Funding a 10-bed unit at Highland Hospital to detain patients for 72 hours for evaluation.
- Increasing pay for direct care workers at inpatient hospitals to help with recruitment and retention.
- Providing \$1.5 million in state funds to raise the Medicaid reimbursement rates for certain services.

The department will also develop a policy to help patients using prescription drugs in order to improve consistency with medication when patients are discharged from hospitals to community settings.

The committee was told the cost for the changes would be \$30 million over the next three years.

When asked about whether West Virginia has enough facilities to house all patients, the acting commissioner replied by saying that there are currently 240 beds at both psychiatric hospitals. Of that 240, 145 are Forensic patients who will never, or rarely, be discharged. She also added that the department is looking at options to combat this problem.

Interim Committee Information
 For information on all Interim Committees, please visit West Virginia Legislature’s Web site: <http://www.legis.state.wv.us> and select the “Joint” link.

Infrastructure, Select Committee on

Banning Texting While Driving

The committee reviewed HB 2621, which prohibits the use of cell phone and text-messaging devices while operating a motor vehicle except when using a hands-free device or in the case of an emergency.

One study presented to the committee shows cell phone texting raises chances of a rear-end traffic collision 23 times, but West Virginia lawmakers appear to be a good distance from outlawing the practice. Lawmakers debated at length during Select Committee on Infrastructure without acting on a proposed bill.

One legislator reminded fellow lawmakers that for the past three years they have sought to ban not only texting but also cell phone usage in general while driving. Even now, the lawmaker is unconvinced the Legislature needs to tackle those issues separately and asked the panel why we want to wait another year to address a problem that continues to cause accidents.

The Motor Vehicles Commissioner told the committee that the practice of texting increases the prospects of a traffic accident 23 times, while simply talking on a cell phone raises the chances six times.

His position is that if they want to combine a cell phone use ban as well as texting, he's for it, but he doesn't want to jeopardize the texting part of the bill. He believes it would be harder to pass a full cell phone ban, and easier to ban texting.

Some lawmakers questioned the wisdom of cracking down on texting while not considering other unsafe practices, such as eating and drinking, or reading a newspaper, while in a moving vehicle.

One lawmaker wants to toughen the law on reckless driving, such as weaving in and out of traffic without giving the proper signals. They believe the cell phone bill is just a political statement that won't really make our roadways safer.

Yet the motor vehicles commissioner pointed to a drop by 300 fatalities in California after it banned cell phones in traffic. He believes the most prominent concern is the texting.

So far, at least 17 states and the District of Columbia have banned texting while driving.

Under the proposed bill, texting would be a secondary offense, meaning police would have to stop a motorist for another moving violation. No points would be added to a driver's license, and the ticket couldn't be reported to either an employer or an insurance carrier.

A first offense would bring a fine of \$25, while a second infraction calls for a \$50 penalty. Third and subsequent offenses would cost a motorist \$75.

Another lawmaker reminded the committee of the difficulty of getting another safety bill enacted a few years ago when the issue was all-terrain vehicles on public highways. The lawmaker noted it was difficult to even get a simple ATV law passed.

Lawmakers also took up a draft measure to transfer decisions on special license plates to the DMV. That bill would limit such plates to nonprofit groups while banning political and religious groups from getting them. All existing plates would be grandfathered in.

Judiciary Subcommittee A

2008 Election Voting Irregularities

Committee members heard from various speakers during this month's interim meeting regarding the usage of electronic voting machines.

A Taylor County Democratic official and a Jackson County voter told committee members that the machines switched votes from one candidate to another in several races during last year's balloting. Complaints arose during last year's election in various counties. However, two county clerks told lawmakers re-calibrating the devices appeared to eliminate that problem.



Handouts were also given to committee members regarding electronic voting problems that have occurred throughout the country such as “phantom” votes, which means that there were more votes than voters. This problem was reported during the 2004 General Election.

Judiciary Subcommittee B

Gender Bias in Insurance Premiums

The committee heard a report from the Senior Health Policy Analyst for the National Women’s Law Center. She presented the report entitled “Nowhere to Turn: How the Individual Health Insurance Market Fails Women.” The presentation focused on the rating practices and maternity coverage in the individual health insurance market.

The report found that thousands of West Virginia women are paying up to 22 percent more for health insurance than men of equal age and health status. The report reviewed the most popular health policies sold to individuals as opposed to groups.

The analysis focused on plans with \$2,500 deductibles and no co-payments that covered prescription drugs but not maternity care. Between 20,000 and 30,000 West Virginia women bought such policies last year. The analysis looked at 3,500 policies, 59 percent of which offered no pre-natal care.

Only among older policyholders were premiums lower for women than for men. The review also questions the availability and affordability of maternity coverage for women with individual policies.

Several lawmakers suggested that premiums are higher for women in those younger and middle age groups simply because they are at a higher risk and thus cost more to insure. They mentioned that in later years men are paying more because at that age, men are at a higher risk and thus cost more to insure. Some lawmakers suggested that they assume there is evidence of greater risk and not gender bias to blame for the discrepancy in premiums.

Judiciary Subcommittee C

Prisoner Risk/Need Assessment

West Virginia’s Division of Criminal Justice Services Statistical Analysis Center Director, , provided an overview of Criminogenic Risk and Needs Assessments to Judiciary Subcommittee C members.

Risk/Need Assessment is an application, tool or instrument that measures a prisoner’s risk to the public using known factors of the prisoner and quantifying those numbers for re-offending and jeopardizing public safety. This process would include and interview with the offender and using facts about the individual. After that is completed, the assessment would be completed on paper or online, which would make it easier to share the information with other agencies.

The director stated that assessment is the “engine that drives effective correctional programs” and case management. The case of treatment services, programming offenders without proper assessment is akin to a physician prescribing medicine without diagnosing the causes of an illness.”

This assessment is one of the top suggestions in the Governors’ Report because it helps to show “who” and “what” to target and “how much” to supervise offenders. In applying this assessment, Haas told the committee that most offenders fall in the middle of whether they are likely to be repeat offenders.

Assessment programs have better outcomes such as greater reductions in recidivism without jeopardizing public safety. The public’s safety is secured through assessment by accurately measuring offender risk and needs. It also saves the state money through the strategic allocation of resources and potentially reducing recidivism if applied properly.

He also told the committee that Risk/Need Assessment could also be a helpful tool in helping guide decision-making throughout the sentencing process by providing a rationale for case plans and protection against legal challenges.



It was also stressed to the committee that these effective outcomes can only be achieved if Risk/Need Assessment is properly administered. What has to happen is if we are going to do this, we can't just train but also provide oversight and audits of the risk assessment. If this is not accomplished, lawmakers were warned that if the assessment was not done correctly there was no guarantee that the right people would be released.

The first step in making this work, is to have the courts, corrections, juveniles, i.e., work together and to also identify the missing data needed to begin assessment. Currently, West Virginia's data is inadequate and needs to be tweaked.

West Virginia Offender Reentry Initiative

Committee members were also provided an overview of the West Virginia Offender Reentry Initiative by West Virginia's Department of Corrections Office of Research and Planning Director

The Offender Reentry Initiative helps those individuals released from jail begin their reentry back into society. According to the Department of Corrections, "offenders have a greater opportunity to be successful upon their return to communities, thus protecting the public and reducing victimization. The reentry program is a comprehensive program that addresses many aspects of the offender's life, to include: health, mental health, job skills, education, substance abuse, etc. The Initiative is a statewide initiative designed to assist in holding offenders accountable and maintain levels of personal responsibility, with the ultimate goal of reducing recidivism and thus reducing victimization.

The committee was told one of the problems facing newly released offenders is that many employers request a recent photo id which many of these offenders do not have. Now, when an offender is released, the Department of Corrections provides them with a new photo id to help make their transition back into society a little easier.

Another problem facing released offenders is finding a safe place to live. the committee learned that correctional

agencies agree there is growing evidence that housing is of the utmost importance to the newly released offenders because it provides stability. Stability of post-release living was statistically related to positive outcomes and a drop in recidivism according to a study conducted by the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

A Transitional House Program would be beneficial to both the Division of Corrections and the offenders being released because they could reduce some of the overcrowding issues while allowing the offender to have a more successful transition back into society, Douglas said.

According to the Division of Corrections, a Transitional Housing Program would provide access to service counselors trained in the following subjects and successful transition could be achieved through:

- Service Navigation
- Job-links
- Financial Pre-planning
- Housing
- Educational Planning
- Family Issues

The research + planning director also told the committee about Oxford Houses which are for individuals recovering from drug and alcohol addiction and are self-supporting and drug free homes. There are currently eight in West Virginia. The number of residents in a House may range from 6 to 15. Some of the requirements for individuals wanting to live at Oxford Houses include:

- The inmate must have a history of substance abuse
- The inmate must acknowledge that he or she is an addict
- The inmate must have a written recovery plan approved by the case manager.
- The inmate must have a Certified State Birth Certificate and a Social Security Card.

There are currently 100 or more parolees who do not have a home plan and therefore cannot go before the parole board. Those numbers are why Transitional Housing or Oxford Houses would be beneficial.



Institutional Transition Programs

The West Virginia Department of Education Coordinator of Institutional Transition Programs also addressed the committee regarding the Institutional Transition Programs’ role in offender reentry and reintegration.

There are currently 260 full-time and 120 part-time employees teaching approximately 7,500 institutionalized juveniles and adults in 43 schools statewide. Core subjects taught include:

- Designing curricula for successful re-entry
- High School Diploma
- GED
- College Degree Programs
- Articulation agreements with WV Career and Technical College System and EDGE credits
- Career and Technical Education Programs (CTE)

The programs start as soon as the offender walks through the door but also noted that the offender is not required to take part.

Safety and Treatment Fund

Before concluding this month’s meeting Counsel presented to the committee proposed legislation that would transfer control of the Safety and Treatment Fund from the Division of Motor Vehicles to the DHHR. The committee voted to have the proposed legislation lie over until next month’s meeting.

Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources Subcommittee

State Parks Disaster Response Methods

During times of fire or natural disaster, the enormous task of protecting the state’s parks and national forests is shared by many. The District Administrator of the Information and Incident Management Team explained its procedures and methods of operation to lawmakers during the meeting of Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources.

His presentation acquainted lawmakers on methods used in small and large-scale incidents, explained the information-sharing component of the team and provided personal field experiences.

Depending on the scale of the disaster (9-11, hurricanes, 2003 space shuttle disaster, homeland security events, etc.), many disaster team members are called in, either regionally or nationally.

Team organization consists of an Incident Commander, who oversees the interaction of teams that can be made up of interagency, local and federal personnel. Teams are also international depending on the size of the incident.

The Commander staff is made up of an information officer, safety officer and a local liaison who keeps the public safe and informed of the environmental disaster.

The General staff consists of teams who address the planning logistics, finance and operational sections of managing the crisis.

Teams, consisting of trained foresters, are expanded and contracted. They work on average of 14 days. Their shifts can be expanded by another seven days after one day of leave. They bring their own gear and live in small tent cities erected within 48 hours of arrival. Cities have water facilities and field kitchens maintained by generators. Teams are provided with two meals a day and a sack lunch during their daily efforts.

Information officers establish information centers to assist the public with their concerns. Updates on a crisis are posted in public sites providing direction to citizens living in a crisis area. The officers are also responsibility for rumor control and provide briefings to local officials.

Some of the district administrator’s personal experiences included fighting the 2000 fire in the Grand Teton and Yellowstone National parks of Wyoming. He described working in Cameron Parish in Louisiana in December of 2005 (Hurricane Rita) where his team was responsible for recovering hazardous materials...keeping an eye open for alligators in the process. Working in Georgia where two fires turned into one. One was fought where it started in Pine Plantation’s 18 million timber stands but was allowed to burn when it reached the Okeefenokee Swamp, which normally sustains ecological burnings naturally.



PEIA, Seniors & Long Term Care, Select Committee on

Improving Seniors' Economic Security

The Associate Director of the Elder Economic Security Initiative Program of Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) in Washington, D.C., explained the Elder Economic Security Project, which benefits state citizens through the West Virginia Center for Budget and Policy.

Vision Shared will partner with WOW, the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy and the Gerontology Institute at UMASS-Boston to highlight the need to improve economic security for West Virginia's aging population.

Vision Shared, a statewide nonprofit, nonpartisan community and economic development organization, operates several volunteer teams, one of which has been working on long-term health care issues for more than two years.

The Elder Economic Security Initiative is a new project that seeks to build economic security for older adults through organizing, advocacy and research. The initiative enables policy makers, aging advocates and others to develop policies and programs to help seniors age with dignity while promoting their economic security.

A key component of the Initiative is the Elder Economic Security Standard Index, a measurement of well-being that determines the income and support needed for older adults to live modestly depending on their health and life circumstances.

The WOW spokeswoman believes this initiative will provide advocates, service providers, policy makers, and the public at-large with data on what elders need to age in place in their communities.

Pensions & Retirement, Joint Standing Comm. on

Municipal Police & Fire Pension Funds

The Joint Committee on Pensions and Retirement continues to grapple with cities and towns seeking help with their

police and fire pension funds. The latest figures from the West Virginia Municipal League for 28 of these cities and towns show that their unfunded liabilities totaled \$636 million in July 2007.

Lawmakers have been discussing the "Huntington plan" which is a proposal to shift 0.1 percent of the state tax on insurance premiums -- or about \$2.5 million a year -- to cities, to help pay down their pension liabilities. Cities previously received that fraction for their pensions, but the revenue was rerouted to the state's ailing teacher pension fund in the 1990s.

Huntington has been the plan's chief proponent. Its pension liabilities will consume one-fifth of its \$42 million budget this year. The city's mayor told lawmakers the pension costs will eat up half the annual budget by 2021.

The overall plan would allow municipalities to enroll new hires in a retirement plan managed by the state Consolidated Public Retirement Board, modeled after the board's new pension plan available for emergency medical services employees. By effectively freezing the unfunded liabilities in their pension plans, municipalities would then come up with 40-year plans to pay down those deficits, similar to the state plan that is paying down teacher pension liabilities over 40 years.

Chief opponents of the plan are rural fire departments who are concerned about providing additional funding for paid departments. Those out-lying areas have been relying on volunteer fire departments, which have sought retirement-like benefits to recruit and keep members. A spokesperson for the state Firefighters Association reminded the committee that his clients provide the bulk of fire protection in the state and suggested directing the surcharge to volunteer fire departments for proposed "length of service" awards, intended to attract and retain volunteer firefighters.

Some lawmakers believe issues facing volunteer fire departments should be dealt with separately while others believe the underfunded liability in Huntington's police and fire pension plans is pushing the city to the brink of filing for federal receivership which would hurt the state's overall bond rating.



Since municipal pensions already get around \$20 million in state funds annually, the committee will continue its discussions.

Regional Jail & Correctional Facility Authority

Prisoner Assessment/ Pocket Parolees

, The director of the Statistical Analysis Center in the state Division of Criminal Justice Services, told the committee that West Virginia lags behind other states in finding out what prison inmates need and what risks they may pose. According to the director this, that could be one of the contributing factors to prison overcrowding in the state.

WV is one of the few states that does not do risk and needs assessments. Risk assessment can help determine an inmate's potential danger to society and chances of committing another crime if paroled.

Risk and needs assessments, which track such factors as the inmate's criminal history, educational attainment, behavior in prison and history of substance abuse, can accurately predict whether an inmate will be a high, medium or low risk for recidivism.

According to the director, without those assessments, low-risk inmates are almost certainly serving longer prison terms than necessary, and high-risk inmates are being paroled prematurely and committing new crimes.

Also in the meeting, the, research and planning director for the Division of Corrections, told legislators there are at least 31 and probably more than 100 "pocket parolees" in the state prison system.

Pocket parolees are inmates who qualify for parole, but are not released from prison because they have no place to go. He noted that the state Parole Board recently changed its policy, and will not conduct parole hearings for inmates who do not have a home plan in place upon release. One lawmaker noted that the pocket parolees are costing the state more than \$2.5 million a year.

Veterans' Affairs, Select Committee on

Federal TRICARE Program

Seeking to encourage health care providers to participate in the Federal TRICARE Program, Veterans' committee members sought insight from both the executive vice-president of the WV Virginia Academy of Family Physicians and the WV National Guard State Health Benefit Advisor for Tricare.

According to material provided, "TRICARE is a part of the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS). CHAMPUS is the health benefit program that the US Government provides the seven Uniformed Services: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service, and the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration."

According to the vice-president of the Academy of Family Physicians, there are 35,715 plus eligible Tricare beneficiaries in West Virginia being served by 1,831 health care providers working in 3,553 locations. During 2008, network and non-network providers received nearly \$30 million in TRICARE reimbursements, not including claims filed by the patients themselves.

The problem, according to the vice-president, is if providers accept assignments they are reimbursed 15 percent less than if they do not sign up for assignments. The vice-president believes that if further incentives were provided, such as tax incentives, more health care providers would sign on to the program.

West Virginia is in the same region covered by TRICARE as Connecticut, which uses Health Net Federal Services as its contractor. According to the medical spokesman, Health Net but will be taken over by Aetna in April of 2010 and service provided by the contractor remains to be seen.

The National Guardsman State Health Benefits Advisor provided a detailed report on other states' efforts regarding legislation proposed to lure health care providers into the TRICARE insurance program through a variety of incentives.



According to the advisor, Connecticut legislators have proposed bills in the last several session requiring health care providers to participate in the program but none have moved from committee.

The handout provided said, “Oregon appears to be the only state with tax incentives for providers participating in TRICARE. The Oregon legislature passed a law in the 2007 session that gives a one-time \$2,500 personal income tax credit to a provider who, for the first time, joins a TRICARE network of preferred providers who furnish health care services to people enrolled in TRICARE in exchange for negotiated fees.

“The law gives providers who actively participate an annual \$1,000 tax credit. It allows a tax deduction for the first tow years in an amount equal to any payments received from TRICARE for services rendered.” The material noted the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office was unable to determine a fiscal impact for the new tax credit.

The state of Virginia is now in session and is considering a TRICARE physicians tax credit (HB 213).

In the Western region, according to a news release provided by TRICARE, governors in a 21-state western region worked for a historic partnership with TriWest and TRICARE to increase the network of providers delivering care to beneficiaries. “The net result is an increase from approximately 80,000 providers to over 120,000.”

Lawmakers continue to review the program.

Water Resources, Joint Legislative Oversight Commission on

Monitoring Water Collection

The , Operations & Environmental Manager for Water TRAC gave a presentation on the methods and costs of monitoring water collection and dispensing in Marcellus drilling operations being used in other states. Water TRAC is a company that specializes in providing these services to gas drilling operations.

A representative of the West Virginia Department of Environmental addressed water resource management at Marcellus drilling operations. They also discussed the DEP suggestions for requesting legislative rules for monitoring water collection and dispensing in Marcellus drilling operations and regulation of water withdrawals from sensitive or high quality streams.

The committee also heard a summary of other state’s requirements for water use associated with Marcellus formation gas drilling operations.

LOCWIED

Employment Programs Funded by Recovery Act

During the interim meeting of the Oversight Commission on Workforce Investment for Economic Development details were provided by the Chancellor for the WV Council for Community and Technical Education (WVCCTE), on the impact of the Recovery Act Funding on Workforce Development and its programs relative to employment services.

With unemployment compensation benefits extended, dollars were used for additional staff and automated services. A new Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) will be installed so that claimants can continue to file claims by telephone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Reemployment services will be provided to eligible claimants that focus on intensive job workshops. Right now, there are 70 locations situated around the state for adult education and dollars have been garnered to provide people with workforce information services, career guidance, job search activities, and other various employment search services. Approximately \$2.4 million goes to regional workforce boards to expand Individual Training Accounts (ITAs), \$5.343 million went to regional boards to expand the youth summer employment programs and \$3.5 million in funding to expand ITAs and On the Job Training (OJT) and needs-related/supportive service payments.

The Chancellor also provided insight into funding made available through grants from the American Reinvestment



and Recovery Act (ARRA). The Chancellor for the WV Council for Community and Technical Education (WVCCTE) listed a variety of programs and grants submitted which would be used to help train or retrain workers throughout our community and technical college system.

A number of community and technical colleges plan to apply for the health care sector and other high growth emerging industries. Some include the Bridgemont Community and Technical College, WV Northern Community College, Blue Ridge Community and Technical College, Marshall Community and Technical College and WV Northern Community College.

One hundred and fifty million is available in grants for national and local nonprofit organizations to provide career pathways for unemployed individuals, high school drop-outs, individuals with a criminal record and disadvantaged individuals living in high poverty.

Many deadlines for the variety of grants available are pending. Further information regarding the submission of grant monies can be obtained from www.workforcewv.org.

It was noted that 500 West Virginians have been re-employed in the last year as a result of the many training programs provided through the state and our community colleges. Lawmakers requested data on new positions and their accompanying wages.

**Interim
Committee
Meetings
2009**

October 13-15
November 17-19
December 7-9
January 10-12 2010

Dates subject to change.

Interim Committee Information

For information on all Interim Committees, please visit West Virginia Legislature's Web site: <http://www.legis.state.wv.us> and select the "Joint" link.

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