

ONE BALDWIN STREET
MONTPELIER, VT 05633-5701

SEN. ANN CUMMINGS, CHAIR
REP. MARTHA HEATH, VICE-CHAIR
SEN. DIANE SNELLING, CLERK
REP. JANET ANCEL
REP. CAROLYN BRANAGAN

SPECIAL COMMITTEE:
SEN. KEVIN MULLIN
REP. ANN PUGH



STATE OF VERMONT
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH

PHONE: (802) 828-2295
FAX: (802) 828-2483

SEN. JOHN CAMPBELL
REP. MITZI JOHNSON
SEN. JANE KITCHEL
SEN. RICHARD SEARS, JR.
REP. DAVID SHARPE

SEN. CLAIRE AYER
REP. SANDY HAAS

Thursday, April 5, 2012

Minutes

Members present: Representatives Ancel, Branagan, Heath, and Sharpe, and Senators Cummings, Kitchel, and Snelling. Special committee members present: Senators Ayer and Mullin and Representative Haas.

Other Attendees: Administration, Joint Fiscal Office, and Legislative Council staff, and various media, lobbyists, advocacy groups, and members of the public.

The Chair, Senator Ann Cummings, called the special committee meeting of the Legislative Joint Fiscal Committee members, the chairs and vice chairs of the Senate Committee on Health & Welfare and the House Committee on Human Services at 12:06 p.m. per Sec. 33(e) of H.630 of 2012.

Catherine Benham referred to a memorandum previously sent to the special committee and explained its contents. The explanation included a brief summary of the legislative mandate of H.630 of 2012 following information on Gail Hutchings, the only candidate applying for the RFP to study Vermont's mental health structure and services.

Senator Kitchel stated that she had spoken with Ms. Hutchings and offered that she came highly recommended by her former employer (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)), and due to her prior employment as the Chief of Staff at SAMHSA was very adept at the RFP goals and expectations. The Senator added that Ms. Hutchings was well-regarded by her peers, and her forte was to configure teams according to the needs of the study.

Senator Kitchel moved that the Special Committee authorize the Joint Fiscal Office to negotiate and sign a contract with Gail Hutchings, President and CEO of Behavioral Health Policy Collaborative, in order to meet the requirements as set forth in Sec. 33(e) of H.630 of 2012. Senator Ayer seconded the motion, and the committee unanimously approved it.

The committee adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Utton-Jerman, Joint Fiscal Office