Testimony
Health Services Committee
Senator Lee, Chairman
January 3rd, 2018

Chairman Lee and members of the Health Services Committee, I am Chris Jones, Executive Director for the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here today to provide you with a status update on the activities of the Task Force on Children's Behavioral Health pursuant to Section 4 of 2017 Senate Bill 2038.

There has been minimal effort on this task force to date. The main reason for the delay includes the effort and focus on Senate Bill 2206, which is referred to as the Social Service Redesign. Additionally, with a number of other high priority projects within the Department, we have not been able to dedicate staff and funding to contract for the task force facilitation and support services.

However, there has been activity as of late. The scope of work has been identified for bid solicitation for a facilitator and support services. Required deliverables include planning and organizing up to eight task force meetings between Feb. 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019; facilitating all task force meetings; and preparing an interim report to lawmakers on the task force's activities and recommendations by June 15, 2018.

Invitations to six key agency directors or their designees have been sent.

The plan includes meetings focused on the five required areas for review: education, juvenile justice, child welfare, community and health. These areas may include development of workgroups including representatives

not named on the task force. Those areas could include advocates, juvenile court, or health care for example.

There are a number of other state initiatives that partially overlap with this work, and it will be important to coordinate in order to limit duplication or counter efforts. Those initiatives include the work of the Governor's Prevention Advisory Council (GPAC), Social Service Redesign, specifically impacts on child welfare redesign; Juvenile Justice and the dual status youth initiative.

This concludes my testimony.   I would be happy to answer any questions.