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HOUSE, SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEES TO HOLD HHS HEARINGS FOR STATE BUDGET BILL

Don't Pass Up Your Chance to Testify before the 77th Legislature

Groups or individuals wanting to testify to the Legislature on Texas state funding for social services: Act now, because this is one of the few chances you will get! House and Senate budget committees in the State Capitol are moving quickly to mark up their respective proposals for state spending in fiscal 2002 and 2003, and the public testimony hearing phase of the proposed state budget bill (SB 1) will most likely be complete by mid-February.

HOUSE SCHEDULE FOR HHS AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

On the House of Representatives side, the full 27-member Appropriations Committee heard overviews of health and human services budgets last week.

This week, the **House Appropriations Health and Human Services Subcommittee** (made up of Chairman Bob Glaze, Garnet Coleman, Craig Eiland, Kyle Janek, and Glen Maxey) is taking public testimony in Room E2.030, Capitol Extension, Austin, starting at 8 AM (see tentative schedule of agency hearings below). The Cancer Council, Commission on the Blind, and Department on Aging went before the subcommittee on January 29th; people wishing to comment on those agencies' budgets should submit written testimony or contact individual members of the House Appropriations Committee.

Wed., Jan. 31 and Thurs., Feb. 1	Texas Dept. of Health
Mon., Feb. 5	Children's Trust Fund Deaf/Hard of Hearing Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Tues., Feb. 6	Rehabilitation Commission Early Childhood Intervention Mental Health/Mental Retardation
Wed., Feb. 7	Protective and Regulatory Services Dept. of Human Services
Thurs., Feb. 8	Health & Human Svcs Commission

For the House **Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government** (Chairman Talmadge Heflin, Kino Flores, Vilma Luna, Joseph Pickett, and Robert Puente), the hearing most likely to interest *Policy Page* readers is scheduled for 7 AM, Room E1.030, on Wednesday, January 31:

Wed., Jan. 31 Housing and Community Affairs
Dept. of Economic Development
Texas Workforce Commission

CPPP staff will be testifying on several agencies' budget requests, including the Department of Human Services (which includes the use of enhanced federal Food Stamp dollars [see *Policy Page 111*], the TIERS project, finger imaging, and eligibility determination for Texas' safety net programs such as Food Stamps, TANF, and Medicaid); the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (child protective services and foster care); the Department of Health and the HHSC (CHIP and Medicaid, TANF strategic uses); and the Workforce Commission (child care and CHOICES).

SENATE HHS HEARINGS TO START FEB. 8TH

The Senate Finance Committee is slated to take up health and human services agencies starting on February 8th; more details will be provided as they become available.

Anyone interested in testifying at either the Senate or House budget or bill committee hearings should also check

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/cgi-bin/db2www/tlo/cmteschd/schdmenu.d2w/report>

for up-to-date agendas, room numbers, and other important information.

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