

# AGENDA

## ASSEMBLY BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1 ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**ASSEMBLYMEMBER GILBERT CEDILLO, CHAIR**

**MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1999  
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 444  
4:00 P.M.**

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## CONSENT CALENDAR

### 4300 DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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#### ISSUE 1: EXPANSION OF FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

The budget requests \$123,000 (\$70,000 General Fund) to expand the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) to the Kern Regional Center where there is a significant number of children who could benefit from the program. The purpose of the program is to provide opportunities for low-income persons age 60 or over to provide supportive one-to one services to children with developmental disabilities. The program was originally established in the developmental centers. However, the number of children in the DCs who could benefit from the program has declined significantly. **Accordingly, the department is requesting to move the program to the regional centers where more children could benefit from the program.**

#### ISSUE 2: FISCAL AUDITS OF REGIONAL CENTERS

The budget requests four limited-term audit positions and two limited term audit appeals positions, at a cost of \$441,000 General Fund. Last year, the Legislature approved several requests for positions to improve oversight of fiscal activities in the regional centers. This proposal would build upon the changes that were adopted last year in response to concerns raised by the federal Health Care Financing Administration with regard to regional center accountability. **The positions appear to be justified on a workload basis.**

Budget bill language would require the department to include, as part of its standard fiscal audit review of the regional centers, an examination of expenditures for case management and related functions.

## 5160 DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION

### ISSUE 3: MEDIATION SERVICES

This letter requests \$149,000 (\$32,000 General Fund) to allow the department to provide mediation services for individuals in the vocational rehabilitation program. Mediation services are a new requirement--pursuant to amendments of 1998--of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973. As such, approval of this request is necessary to comply with federal law, and to continue to receive federal funds for vocational rehabilitation services.

The funding will be used to establish procedures for mediation of disputes. The amount requested is based upon the number of disputes that were reviewed in 1997-98, and the first six months of 1998-99. The request also includes \$35,000 to provide independent contractors with training in federal laws and regulations. According to the Department, the federal government has not yet issued guidelines on to states on mediation services. **Approval of this request is necessary to comply with federal law.**

### ISSUE 4: SUPPORT SERVICE ASSISTANT POSITIONS

The budget requests \$116,000 (\$25,000 General Fund) to increase the number of Support Service Assistants. The department currently has on staff 301 individuals with disabilities. Consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the department provides the necessary supports to enable these individuals to perform their jobs. Support Service Assistants (SSAs) are responsible for helping state employees with disabilities in their job capacity. The budget request will allow the department five additional SSAs. **This request is consistent with the historic ratio of providing one SSA for every four staff with reported disabilities.**

### ISSUE 5: HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES WAIVER POSITIONS

The budget requests \$416,000 (\$208,000 General Fund) for eight new permanent positions to implement and maintain the Home and Community Based Services Waiver Program within the Department of Rehabilitation. The federal Home and Community Based Waiver (HCBW) Program provides federal Medicaid funds (50 percent) for eligible services provided to individuals with disabilities who live in community settings. The HCBW program is administered by the Department of Developmental Services.

The Work Activity Program and Supported Employment Program administered by the Department of Rehabilitation were recently determined to be eligible for HCBW program funding. The requested positions would be responsible for meeting the federal accounting and reporting requirements. **The positions appear to be justified on a workload basis.**

**ISSUE 6: INDEPENDENT LIVING GRANT POSITIONS**

The budget requests \$96,000 (\$10,000 General Fund) to continue two limited-term positions on a permanent basis. These positions are responsible for managing the Independent Living Grant program. This grant from the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration provides independent living services to individuals with disabilities. The department estimates that approximately 76 grants will be made to community based organizations by the Independent Living Section. **The positions appear to be justified on a workload basis.**

**ISSUE 7: CALIFORNIA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY INCREASE**

The budget requests an augmentation of federal expenditure authority for the current and budget years (\$319,000 and \$425,000, respectively). These funds are needed to identify assistive devices and disseminate information on such technology to the disabled and allied communities. **There is no General Fund cost.**

**ISSUE 8: IN-SERVICE TRAINING GRANT**

The budget requests an increase in federal expenditure authority for the In-Service Training Grant. The spending authority would allow the state to spend additional federal grant funds that have become available. The grant is used to provide training to ensure a level of professional competence for department employees who provide vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities. **There is no General Fund cost.**

**ISSUE 9: CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The budget requests an increase of \$35,000 federal funds for the Client Assistance Program (CAP). This increase will be used to expand training of regional CAP advocates. The objective of the CAP is to resolve questions and problems—regarding eligibility for the vocational rehabilitation program or other services--at the counselor level while preserving the clients' rights to a formal appeal procedure. **There is no General Fund cost.**

**ISSUE 10: INCREASE ELDERLY BLIND GRANT**

The budget request a \$36,000 increase in federal expenditure authority. This request will allow the department to use the total level of federal funds available for the Elderly Blind Grant program in the budget year. Of the amount requested, \$33,000 will be for local assistance grants to providers. The remainder (\$3,000) is for state operations to cover administrative costs. **There is no General Fund cost.**

## ITEMS TO BE HEARD

### 4300 DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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#### ISSUE 11: CLIENT'S RIGHTS ADVOCACY CONTRACT FUNDING

The budget requests \$1.8 million to support the statutorily required contract for statewide client's rights advocacy services.

#### BACKGROUND:

Effective January 1, 1998, the department was required to contract with a private non-profit agency for the provision of client's rights advocacy services throughout California. After issuing two requests for proposals, which resulted in inadequate responses, the department entered into a sole source contract with Protection and Advocacy, Inc. The contract was implemented in September 1998.

#### COMMENTS:

- According to the department, the amount requested is needed to meet the level of services envisioned in the Lanterman Act.

**ISSUE 12: SALARY INCREASE FOR COMMUNITY CARE FACILITIES (CCF)**

The budget proposes a 10.3 percent rate increase (effective January 1, 2000) for community care facilities, at a cost of \$22.7 million (\$6.4 million General Fund).

**BACKGROUND:**

As part of the Budget Act of 1998, the Legislature approved mandatory training of direct care staff, and funding for the "first installment" on wage increases. The 1999-00 proposal is the continuation, or second installment, on the training/wage increase proposal adopted last year. Under this proposal, CCF providers will be required to use these funds to increase direct care staff salaries, wages, and benefits to help reduce turnover and improve overall quality of care, and to provide coverage while direct care staff are taking mandatory training.

**COMMENTS:**

- This request provides funding for the second year of a proposal that was approved by the Legislature last year.

**ISSUE 13: REGIONAL CENTER CASE MANAGEMENT RATIO**

Last year, the Legislature provided funds to increase the number of case managers in the regional centers. The objective is to achieve a ratio of 1 case manager for every 62 regional center consumers. Several concerns have been raised regarding the issue.

**BACKGROUND:**

Specifically, concerns have been raised regarding the way that regional centers calculate the ratio. For example, should children 0 to 3 years of age be included in the ratio? Also, to the extent that federal funds are available to reduce caseloads, should regional centers be required to reduce ratios below the 1 to 62 goal outlined in the previously adopted plan?

**COMMENTS:**

- The department has been asked to provide the subcommittee an update on regional center implementation of the 1 to 62 ratio.
- The Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee has adopted placeholder trailer bill language to address these issues.



**ISSUE 14: SB 1038 (THOMPSON), CHAPTER 1043, STATUTES OF 1998**

The budget requests \$4 million for additional staff in the state developmental centers and the regional centers to comply with SB 1038.

**BACKGROUND:**

Under SB 1038, the department is required to:

- Prepare, provide and require consumer rights to be posted in all residential facilities and day program.
- Prepare proposed regulations, by January 1, 2001, to implement a cost modeled rate system as opposed to a cost driven system for establishing rates for community care facilities.
- Report annually to the Legislature on the status of the memorandums of understanding between regional centers and county mental health departments.
- Amend the training requirements for Administrative Law Judges and provide for an annual evaluation of those judges.
- Collect, maintain and provide copies, upon request, of a fair hearing decisions.

**COMMENTS:**

These positions appear to be justified on a workload basis.

**ISSUE 15: DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER POPULATION ADJUSTMENTS**

The budget projects a net reduction of 176 residents in the developmental centers (DCs). This will result in a reduction of \$13.2 million in the 1999-00 DC budget.

**BACKGROUND:**

The population estimate and budget projection reflects adjustments to the level of care staffing, non-level of care staffing, and the Napa State Hospital program. This request will likely change as part of the May revise.

**COMMENTS:**

This estimate will change as part of the May revise.

**ISSUE 16: DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER STAFFING AUGMENTATION**

The budget requests \$19.4 million to implement the second year of the developmental center staffing proposal.

**BACKGROUND:**

Last year, the Legislature approved a four-year proposal to address staffing deficiencies in the developmental center. This plan brings developmental staffing levels up current standards for direct and indirect care workers. It also eliminates the budgeted salary savings requirement.

This 1999-00 budget request is for the second year of the plan. The proposal provides \$19.4 million for a total of 470 new positions. Some other adjustments include additional security staffing consistent with approved standards for the forensic program at Lanterman Developmental Center to accommodate the transfer of residents from Napa, and security improvements at the Porterville Developmental Center.

**COMMENTS:**

- This may change as part of the May revise.
- Should the subcommittee adopt budget bill language requiring the department to provide the Legislature with a status update on by January 1, 2000 on the implementation plan for increasing staff at the developmental centers?

**ISSUE 17: NAPA STATE HOSPITAL FORENSIC PROGRAM CLOSURE**

The budget proposes an augmentation of \$1.7 million for one-time costs associated with the transfer of forensic clients with developmental disabilities from Napa State Hospital by March 31, 2000.

**BACKGROUND:**

The state developmental centers are home to a growing number of persons with disabilities who have committed crimes, and who enter the centers by way of the criminal justice system. Currently, there are 1,400 such consumers in the system. Most of the forensic population-- about 1,200 persons--live at the Napa State Hospital, which is owned and operated by the state Department of Mental Health (DMH). However, the DMH needs this space now to serve a growing mental health population, and has asked DDS to relocate by March 31, 2000. The DDS is planning to transfer the forensic residents to the Porterville Developmental Center (in Tulare County) and the Lanterman Developmental Center (in Los Angeles County).

**COMMENTS:**

- This request may change as part of the May revise to allow more time for the transfer of consumers.
- Should the subcommittee adopt budget bill language requiring the department to provide a status update by February 1, 2000 on the forensic population of consumers residing at the developmental centers?
- Should the Legislature adopt budget bill language requiring the department to collaborate with the Department of Mental Health to develop a comprehensive plan for transferring forensic individuals from Napa State Hospital to the developmental centers?

**ISSUE 18: DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER & REGIONAL CENTER CERTIFICATION  
ISSUES**

There are two outstanding issues in the Department of Developmental Services that pose a potential General Fund risk in the current and budget years. First, is the de-certification of the Agnews Developmental center and possibly others. Second, is the certification of the regional centers.

**BACKGROUND:**

***Agnews De-Certification.*** The Department of Health Services and the federal Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) certify the state's five developmental centers as Intermediate Care Facilities. Certification protects the health and safety of the people who live in these institutions. Under current law, the DCs must be re-certified annually. In January, the state was notified by HCFA that Agnews developmental center failed to meet several conditions for certification, and that effective March 1999 the center was decertified. Consequently, the state will not receive federal fiscal participation through Medi-Cal. This loss of federal funds will need to be back-filled using General Fund. The Lanterman and Sonoma Developmental centers are also at risk of losing federal funds for failure to meet federal certification requirements. **The potential impact on the General Fund ranges from \$8 million to \$31 million in the budget year.**

The specific unmet conditions involve issues of health and safety, staff competency, and the protection of developmental center residents' rights and dignity to name a few. The department has developed a plan to address these issues. Under the plan, the state would request recertification for Agnews by October 1999.

***Regional Centers' Certification.*** Regional centers are non-profit organizations that provide services to disabled persons as part of the state's Community Services Program. The state receives federal Medicaid matching funds for most of these services under the Home and Community Based Services Waiver. Last year, due to deficiencies in the program, HCFA required the state to submit a new state plan for the Home and Community Based Services Waiver: one that addressed the deficiencies. The department was also required to certify each of the 21 regional centers before they could be eligible for federal fiscal participation. **The Governor's budget optimistically assumes that all centers will be certified in the budget year. The May revise will likely include a General Fund augmentation that reflects a more realistic timeline for certification of the centers.**

**COMMENTS:**

➤ This is informational only. The subcommittee should re-visit these issues as part of the May revise.

**5160 DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION**

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**ISSUE 19: EXPANSION OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT UNIT**

The budget proposes to increase reimbursement-funding authority by \$229,000 and establish four new two-year limited term positions in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Unit.

**BACKGROUND:**

The ADA unit of the department is responsible for providing technical assistance to state agencies in developing plans to meet the requirements of ADA. The department has entered into agreements with state agencies to provide reimbursement for services in fiscal year 1999-00. This budget request reflects the additional workload.

**COMMENTS:**

The proposed new positions appear to be justified on a workload basis.

**ISSUE 20: VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION BASE AUGMENTATION**

The budget requests an augmentation of \$18.4 million (\$3.9 million General Fund) to allow the department to continue to provide services to new eligible applicants

**BACKGROUND:**

The Vocational Rehabilitation Services program provides training and career development services to individuals with disabilities. The program is authorized by the federal vocational rehabilitation Act, and is funded by the state and federal governments at the rate of 21.3 percent and 78.7 percent, respectively.

The program is not an entitlement program; therefore, the number served is based upon the availability of state funds. At this time, the state is serving a portion of the individuals who (based on a disability score) are considered "most severely disabled." The budget estimates that approximately 51,700 people will participate in the program in 1999-00.

**COMMENTS:**

This estimate will change as part of the May revise.

## 4260 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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### ISSUE 21: SINGLE POINT OF ENTRY—FINANCE LETTER

The letter requests spending authority (\$46,000 federal funds) and one Associate Medi-Cal Eligibility Analyst to develop the Single Point of Entry through an inter-agency agreement with the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board.

#### BACKGROUND:

The objective of this proposal is to further reduce the barriers to enrollment for the estimated 1.7 million children who are currently eligible for Medi-Cal and Healthy Families, but do not participate. In addition to establishing a “single point of entry”, this proposal will result in a shorter, more user-friendly application.

This issue was discussed in subcommittee two weeks ago. At that time, the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) recommended an alternative proposal that would eliminate potential duplication of effort between the Electronic Data Systems and the counties. At the request of the subcommittee chair, Legislative staff and the department convened a meeting to discuss the proposals.

Legislative staff raised concerns about the appropriateness of this proposal given legislative proposals seeking to reform the Medi-Cal and Healthy Families programs. The department indicated that the single point of entry proposal is a starting point, and that they would work with the Legislature to re-define the single point of entry should reforms result in the need to do so.

#### COMMENTS:

- Should the subcommittee approve the Single Point of Entry proposal?



**ISSUE 22: CALIFORNIA CANCER REGISTRY/OTHER CANCER RELATED ISSUES**

Should the subcommittee provide additional funds to operate the California Cancer Registry?

**BACKGROUND:**

The California Cancer Registry collects statewide data on cancer patients, cancer treatments. The information is used to increase understanding of cancer incidence and trends, and to develop strategies for prevention treatment and control.

The CCR was established in 1988. In 1991-92, there was a roughly 40 percent reduction in the budget for the registry. Since that time, some funding has been restored via the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund and the Breast Cancer Control Account. However, these funds never fully restored the CCR.

The proposed \$2.4 million would be used to collect more information on the treatment of cancer, to perform case finding and survival analysis. In addition, the registry will collect payment information that may be useful in examining the effect of managed care on the delivery of cancer related services.

**COMMENTS:**

Last year, the subcommittee provided \$2.4 million for the Cancer Registry, but it was vetoed.

**Other Cancer Related Issues:** The Senate adopted trailer bill language requiring the department to:

1. Report to the Legislature on the implementation of the Cancer Research Act of 1997, and
2. Provide information to consumers, patients, and health care providers regarding women's gynecological cancers pursuant to Chapter 754 of the Statutes of 1998. Does the subcommittee want to adopt the language?

**ISSUE 23: CLINIC GRANTS**

Should the subcommittee further augment the Expanded Access to Primary Care (EAPC), Seasonal Agricultural and Migrant Worker (SAMW), and Rural Health Services Development (RHSD) clinic grant programs?

**BACKGROUND:**

Last week, the subcommittee placed augmentations for these programs on a list to provide budget staff additional time to further review the request.

The committee's review of the available data supports the request for additional funds. The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development data indicate that clinics continue to provide significant levels of uncompensated care. For example, in 1997 (the latest year for which data are available), clinics provided nearly \$60 million in uncompensated care to indigent patients.

In addition to a budget augmentation, the subcommittee has been asked to adopt budget bill language for the RHSD and SAMW programs stating: "Funds shall be allocated to current grant recipients in proportion to their current award levels". According to advocates, this is needed to prevent delays in the allocation of additional funds

**COMMENTS:**

The Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee approved \$10 million General Fund for the Expanded Access to Primary Care program, \$3.5 million for the Seasonal Agricultural and Migratory Worker (SAMW) program, and \$2.5 million for the Rural Health Services Development (RHSD) grant program.

**ISSUE 24: CALIFORNIA HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY**

The subcommittee has been asked to provide \$2 million (\$1 million General Fund) for the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS).

**BACKGROUND:**

The California Health Interview Survey will provide key data on the prevalence of chronic conditions, communicable disease, and quality of life. It will also provide policy relevant information regarding health insurance coverage, and access to health services at the local level. This information could be used by local health departments, community based organizations, and health care providers.

**COMMENTS:**

The CHIS is a collaborative effort of the Department of Health Services' Center for Health Statistics, the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, and the private non-profit Public Health institute.

**ISSUE 25: MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH-TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT LETTER**

The finance letter proposes a technical adjustment to restore \$2.4 million in Title V federal funds to the budget. These funds were permanently appropriated in the Budget Act of 1998. The letter also proposes to shift \$1.2 million from the General Fund to federal funds for the Adolescent Family Life Program

**BACKGROUND:**

Generally, Title V funded programs promote the health of pregnant women, infants, and children. Specific programs funded by Title V include the Black Infant Health, American Indian Infant Health, the Fetal Infant Mortality Review, Family Health Outcomes Project, and Youth Violence and Prevention Training.

***Adolescent Family Life Program (AFLP) Rate Increase:*** The AFLP provides case management and counseling services for pregnant and parenting teens age 17 and under. Last year, the Legislature provided a rate increase for the AFLP, but it was vetoed. A recent independent cost study contracted by the Department of Health Services has confirmed the need for a rate increase. The Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee provided \$5 million for this purpose. This amount would raise the annual rate per participant from \$1,375 to \$1,716.

**COMMENTS:**

Should the subcommittee augment the budget for the Adolescent Family Life Program to provide a rate increase?

**ISSUE 26: MALE RESPONSIBILITY/PARTNERSHIP FOR RESPONSIBLE PARENTING/  
COMMUNITY CHALLENGE GRANTS**

The budget requests \$368,000 (General Fund) for the continuation of five limited-term positions to administer the Male Responsibility Program. Under the proposal, the positions would expire in June 2001.

**BACKGROUND:**

**Male Responsibility Program.** The Male Responsibility program provides information and counseling to adolescent boys about their role in decreasing teen pregnancy. The program is administered by counties, community clinics, and youth centers.

**Partnership for Responsible Parenting (PRP) Media Campaign:** The budget includes a total of \$9.3 million for the RPR media campaign. This includes funding for television, radio, and billboards advertisement, media production and public relations. Last year, one-time funding of \$825,000 was added to the budget for abstinence-only outreach. The budget proposes to continue these funds. *The Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee reduced funding for the PRP Media Campaign by \$5 million.*

**Community Challenge Grant Program.** The budget includes \$20 million and trailer bill language to continue the program for an additional year. Under current law, the program would sunset in June 1999. The challenge grant program provides funds to community based organizations for the implementation of locally developed teen pregnancy prevention programs.

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) recommends adopting budget bill language requiring the department to revise its grant guidelines to award only tested program designs, similar to the model used by the state Department of Education for its teen pregnancy prevention program.

**COMMENTS:**

- **Male Responsibility:** The five positions appear to be justified on a workload basis.
- **Partnership for Responsible Parenting:** Should the subcommittee continue to fund the PRP Media campaign at the current year level?
- **Community Challenge Grant Program:** Should the subcommittee adopt the LAO recommendation?

**ISSUE 27: LOW LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE/WARD VALLEY**

The budget includes \$1.2 million for the Low Level Radioactive Waste project in Ward Valley. Should the Legislature continue to fund these activities?

**BACKGROUND:**

Since 1985, the state has been involved in an effort to develop and operate a low-level radioactive waste disposal site. After selecting a site (Ward Valley in the Eastern Mojave Desert), conducting extensive evaluations of the environmental impact, and after entering into agreements with four other states (known as the Southwestern Compact) and U.S. Ecology, the disposal site remains inoperative.

The Ward Valley site is on land owned by the federal government, and before the site can be used for disposal, it must be transferred to state ownership. Delay over the past six years is primarily due to resistance on the part of the Federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to selling the property. In 1997, the state filed legal actions against the BLM to compel the secretary of Interior to complete the transfer of land. In March 1999, the courts denied the state's request.

In the meantime, the state continues to provide \$1.2 million to fund positions, consulting services, and operating expenses and equipment for the Low Level Radioactive Waste program. Although the primary emphasis of the positions has been obtaining transfer of the land, little has been accomplished in this regard. Should the Legislature continue to fund this effort?

**COMMENTS:**

- The Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee eliminated the funding for this program.

**ISSUE 28: BEACH WATER TESTING**

The budget does not include full year funding for the Beach Water Safety Program. According to the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) an additional \$550,000 is needed to meet the full annual cost of the program.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 1997-98, AB 411 (Wayne) established uniform requirements for local health officers to conduct regular monitoring of coastal waters for bacterial contamination and mandated the posting of health warnings when the waters at beaches pose a health hazard.

Under the program, the Department of Health Services is required to set protective public health standards for bacterial contaminants, to establish protocols for the location of monitoring sites and frequency of monitoring for the posting, closing and reopening of public beaches.

A coalition of nine members has expressed concern regarding the funding for this program. They are Assembly members Hannah Beth Jackson, George Nakano, Fred Keeley, Alan Lowenthal, Kerry Mazzoni, Kevin Shelley, Ted Lempert, Virginia Strom-Martin, and Howard Wayne.

**COMMENTS:**

- Should the subcommittee adopt the LAO recommendation?

**ISSUE 29: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LAB RENOVATION**

The budget requests \$330,000 for renovation of a southern California laboratory. These funds will cover the budget year costs.

**BACKGROUND:**

The total estimated cost of the proposal is \$2.3 million. According to the department, the facility presents health and safety problems, seismic concerns, and inadequacies of the HVAC, plumbing and electrical systems.

**COMMENTS:**

- According to the department, this request is part of the department's five-year capital plan.



**ISSUE 30: RURAL HEALTH DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS-TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT**

The rural health demonstration projects were created as part of the Healthy Families program to address the special health care needs of people who live in rural parts of the state. Last year, the Legislature provided \$9 million to fund five projects statewide.

A portion of the funding awarded to rural providers has been used to purchase capital equipment. Technical language is needed to clarify Legislature's intent that this property is owned by the recipient of Rural Health Demonstration Project funds, and not the state of California.

**ISSUE 31: WOMEN INFANTS CHILDREN POSITIONS—LAO RECOMMENDATION**

The department requests 13 new positions to administer the WIC program.

**BACKGROUND:**

The WIC program provides food vouchers to low-income women with infants and children. According to the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), three of the 13 positions do not appear to be justified on a workload basis. The LAO recommends redirecting the funds for these three positions to the local assistance budget, where the monies would be used to provide additional food to infants.

**COMMENTS:**

Should the subcommittee adopt the LAO recommendation?