

Department of Human Services

Four Percent Provider Rate Increase and Direct Care Staff Compensation

On April 25th, the Human Services Subcommittee recommended acknowledging receipt of a report from the Department of Human Services on actions taken to increase compensation for direct care staff serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Department's 2015-17 budget included an increase in rates for most intellectual and developmental disabilities service providers. To clarify intent on how providers were to use the additional dollars, a budget note directed that compensation for direct care staff should be increased by at least 4%. The note also required providers to present their related action plans during the 2016 legislative session and for DHS to report this session.

Information collected by the Department indicates all provider agencies increased salaries and/or benefits. The report includes a summary of plans, actions, and wage increase examples organized by provider type. These consist of supported living, group home, and employment/community inclusion services; the majority—about 70%—of direct care staff work group homes. Reported wages for these employees averaged \$11.85 per hour at the time data was submitted to the agency.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends approval.