Overview of the Social Services Estimating Conference Process

May 12, 2009

Workgroup on Managed Care Reimbursement
Agency for Health Care Administration
Tallahassee, Florida
Principals and Participants

- The Principals of each conference are:
  - Professional staff of the Executive Offices of the Governor, designated by the Governor,
  - The coordinator of the Office of Economic and Demographic Research,
  - Professional staff of the Senate, designated by the President, and
  - Professional staff of the House of Representatives, designated by the Speaker.

- A participant is any person who is invited to participate in the consensus estimating conference by a Principal. A participant shall, at the request of any Principal, before or during any session of the conference, develop alternative forecasts, collect and supply data, perform analyses, or provide other information needed by the conference.
Social Services Estimating Conference Process

- The consensus process dates back to 1970 and was adopted in state law in 1982.
- “Consensus” is defined in section 216.133(3), Florida Statutes, to mean: “the unanimous consent of all the principals of a consensus estimating conference”.
- Sections 216.133-216.137, Florida Statutes, specify the duties of each designee and the conference principals and participants.
- Conference principals can call conferences and are generally responsible for developing and choosing the forecasts.
Forecasts are estimates and projections of future resources or expenditures based on historical information, trends, and anticipated events. Consensus estimates must be used for official planning and budgeting purposes.

Forecasts are essential for a variety of governmental planning and budgeting functions.

The Governor’s budget recommendations and the Legislative appropriations process require a wide range of forecasts.

Economic and demographic forecasts are used to support estimates of revenues and demands for state services.
Revenue estimates are needed to develop a state financial plan and ensure that the state meets the constitutional balanced budget requirement.

Caseload estimates are needed to support financial models for education, criminal justice, retirement, social service programs, and the child welfare system.

As specified in Section 216.136, Florida Statutes, there are 10 individual estimating conferences.

For these conferences, there may be more than 30 separate individual conferences that happen within a few weeks of each other.
The 10 individual estimating conferences are as follows:

- Economic (Nation & State)
- Demographic
- Revenue
- Education
- Criminal Justice
- Social Services
- Work Force
- Early Learning Programs
- Self-Insurance
- Florida Retirement System Actuarial Assumption