THE BEACON HILL
UPDATE
MONITORING STATE ACTIVITIES AFFECTING LOW INCOME PEOPLE

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More on who to get to know

Who's Who in the State System

Among the state's 64,000 employees there are many with reputations for being accessible, competent and knowledgable about low income-related and social service issues. They are often willing and able to provide information on their subject areas. This potential guidance can be very helpful to groups developing strategies for action or trying to find out the status of ongoing matters.

This 'Who's Who' to the state system (Boston area only) was compiled on the basis of interviews with activists who have had considerable experience working on state public policy questions. The list, arranged according to issue areas covered by the *Update*, should not be construed as being of people who will reveal classified information. (We keep them to ourselves.) Legislators and top level officials have been omitted

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In the broad area of welfare, the Welfare Department has a number of upper level management people who can generally be reached, including Assistant Commissioners Martin Abramowitz (research & planning), Steve Kane (payments), Ralph Muller (budget) and Peter Bloomsburgh (medical). Also mentioned were Van Lanckton (legal), Paul Provencher (payments), Barbara Stolorow (budget), Susan Bartholemew (appeals) & Brigid Sullivan (long term care). The only EOHS person mentioned was Chris Crowe. A good place to look for information is the Sen. Human Services Committee's usually helpful Beth Capstick and Chris Chamberlain. Often overlooked is the Attorney General's office, particularly the sub-divisions that are consumer oriented. Cited were Assistant Attorneys General Jonathan Brant (privacy) and Sally Kelly (medicaid).

Where the People Aren't

Those interviewed were hardput to mention names in the offices of the three individuals who most directly affect public policy - the Governor, the House Speaker and the Senate President. In general, the respondents viewed the legislative staffs as being either unhelpful on the House side, or unnecessary on the Senate side due to their direct dealings with the usually accessible state Senators. Most felt that the best sources of information were in the agencies - with the conspicuous exception of the Office of Administration and Finance.

In public health, the bulk of names mentioned were middle level people at the Department of Public Health. DPH people to see are Ed McColgan (legislation), Jim Hyde (prevention), Howard Wensley (local health), Charles Slavin (HSA's), Susan Guthrie (Hill-Burton) and from the legal office, Judy Saltzman (nursing homes, Hill-Burton) and Anne Gosline (sanitary code). Other agency people to contact are Carolyn Stewart (legislation, DON), EOHS; and Dorothy Puhy (hospitals) and Nancy Morgan (federal research), both at Rate Setting. From the legislative offices, those to get to know are House Health Committee staffers Lucy Farmer and Jane Spilka and House Human Services' Jim Neely.

The agency representation in the area of children's services is broad. At the Department of Education there is Mike Daley (legislation) and Roger Brown (special ed). At Youth Services, John Isaacson (after care) is highly regarded. In the Welfare Department, Assistant Commissioner Ruth Malenka (social services), Betty Vorenberg (CHINS) and Phyllis Hersch (protective services) are all said to be accessible. People to see at other agencies are EOHS's Chris Crowe, DPH's Dick Clapp (lead paint), the Office for Children's Donna Makin (planning, development) and gubernatorial aide Michael Faden (legislation). On the legisla-

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