

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, January 24, 2014

TIME: 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

PLACE: WW02 - Lincoln Auditorium

MEMBERS: Chairman Wood(27), Vice Chairman Perry, Representatives Hancey, Henderson (Chambers), Hixon, Malek, Morse, Romrell, Vander Woude, Rusche, Chew

Chairman Heider, Vice Chairman Nuxoll, Senators Lodge, Hagedorn, Guthrie, Martin, Lakey, Bock, Schmidt

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Romrell

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office until the end of the session. Following the end of the session, the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

Chairman Heider called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

Ian James Bott, Bobbie Phillips, Janalyn Kesler, Amy James-Rish, Misty-Dawn James, Idaho Residents; **Dan Hymus**,UVRCC; **Laura Scuri**,Access Behavioral; **Stacy Stephens**, Alliance Family Services, Inc.; **Paul Hymus**,Upper Valley Resource & Counseling Center; **Doug Loertscher**, Starr Family Behavioral Health; **Darci Morano**,Core Counseling Center; **Jim Baugh**, Disability Rights Idaho; **Jessica Chilcotte**, Sandpoint Family Services; **Teronda Robinson**, Community Partnerships; **Nikki Tangen**, Access BHS, testified about issues with Medicaid and it's administration company, Optum Idaho.

They stated that required prior authorizations for medication have become difficult to obtain. The request was made that Optum lift the prior authorization requirement until they have a workable solution for the lengthy delays, especially for individuals coming out of state hospitals. Authorization delays and lengthy hold times are straining businesses and tying up valuable employee time. Callers are put on hold for three or more hours.

They commented that changes, such as the Case Manager duties, are not communicated to the providers and provider associations. They stated that there is a lack of rendering services guidelines. Rural areas are suffering with the non-reimbursement of Case Managers for care coordination. It was requested that the reimbursement schedule and the level of care process be revisited, with input from providers. Payment delays are causing unpaid employer taxes, despite repeated claims from Optum that they would pay like the previous system.

Psychosocial Rehabilitative Services (PSR) requirements by Optum have been cut, impacting clients' desires to live like "other folks." An Optum representative said parents should case manage like "normal parents," which is not an appropriate response.

Requests were made to restore preventive dental services.

Optum requires medical practitioners to have digitized records and have a full-time practice, which is forcing either purchase of the expensive program, or closure.

Quarterly reports for case management and PSR are no longer being received. Services are now crisis management driven.

They shared concern that Optum has broken promises and is in violation of their contract due to the complaint responses beyond two days and hold times that are in excess of two minutes.

Tracy Warren, Council on Developmental Disabilities; **Mark Mayfield** and **Sara Lloyd**, Stepping Stones Services; **Bill Benkula** and **Nancy Luevano**, Idaho Residents; **Charlene Quade**, Attorney & Private Guardian, testified regarding Community Supported Employment (CSE).

They testified that Individual budget reductions have forced the Medicaid participants to choose a reduction in their CSE services. This decrease has removed the opportunity for these individuals to maintain jobs and independence. The wait list for state funded rehabilitation employment services has increased dramatically. They asked that budget modifications be made for employment and health and safety needs. Transitional services in high school allow competitive workers who, without these services, would fall through the cracks.

Kathy Mercer, Idaho Resident, testified **in support** of Medicaid Redesign as an important change and movement forward for Idaho.

Rachel Raue and **Glen Raue**, Idaho Residents; **Marilena Delgado**, **Genevieve Sylvia**, **David Lounsberry**, ICAN, expressed concern about insurance coverage and Medicaid loss. They requested a redesign to expand Medicaid to cover groups without coverage, including older working individuals and those who are too poor to qualify for insurance.

Van Beechler, IADDA, testified about the Children's Redesign. He stated that the crisis intervention services have overloaded some Case Managers. There are accessibility issues in rural areas. Crisis intervention services needs an intermediate level with a BA degree requirement.

Suzanne Jamison, Executive Director, Dental Hygienist Association, requested the formation of an oral access advisory task force to assess the dental hygiene practice, with an eye to increasing responsibilities. New models could be reviewed that would better utilize existing skills, training, and monies.

Chairman Wood(27) and **Chairman Heider** thanked everyone for attending and testifying. They stated that the issues expressed are important. Upcoming legislation and meetings will help the Committees address many of the concerns.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Representative Wood(27)
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary