

MINUTES  
**HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Thursday, March 08, 2012
- TIME:** 1:30 PM or Upon Adjournment
- PLACE:** Room EW42
- MEMBERS:** Chairman McGeachin, Vice Chairman Bilbao, Representative(s) Loertscher, Shepherd, Thayn, Wood(27), Guthrie, Roberts, Rusche, Chew
- ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Reps. Bilbao, Shepherd, Loertscher
- GUESTS:** Tom Whittemore, and Bridger Fly, CommuniCare, Inc; Terri Brannan, Dr. Sarah Toevs, Mike Berlin, Idaho Alzheimer's Group; Dr. Barry Cusack, Veterans Administration Medication Center; MacKenzie Rodgers, Alzheimer's Association; Dae Goids, Idaho News Service; Tony Smith, Benton Ellis; Kris Ellis, and Robert Vande Merwe, Idaho Health Care Association; Paul Leary, Department of Health and Welfare; Elizabeth Criner, Pfizer; Sandy Evans and Roger Gabel, Idaho Board of Nursing; Lee Flinn, AARP; Margaret Henbest, Nurse Leaders of Idaho.
- Chairman McGeachin** called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Rusche** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2012, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- SCR 112:** **Rep. Wood(27)** presented **SCR 112**, legislation requesting support of the Alzheimer's Planning Group efforts to address problems of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias in Idaho.
- Mike Berlin**, Idaho Alzheimer's Planning Group, was invited to continue the presentation on **SCR 112**. He said that this resolution provides resilience to their group to approach state agencies for compliance and grant proposals. There is no fiscal impact, just a request for legislative endorsement. Mr. Berlin described the group's membership and the statistical growth of the disease. He detailed their approach to increase awareness, education, data collection, community input, and reporting.
- Dr. Barry Cusack**, Veterans Administration Medication Center, discussed the suffering experienced by individuals, families, and communities. He stated that the most common form of dementia is Alzheimer's (60%) . The illness begins with small symptoms that are excessive to those attributed to normal aging and offers a continued decline with no existing cure.
- He highlighted the difficulties of caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease by sharing one family's case and the consequences of their efforts. **Dr. Cusack** said that education and support can delay an individual's institutional placement. He then explained the need to support caregivers and current prevention concepts.
- Dr. Sarah Toevs**, Director, Center for the Study of Aging, College of Health Sciences, Boise State University, detailed opportunities to improve the spectrum of prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and caregiver support services. She discussed how various program improvements have benefited this patient group, detailing programs that provide information on long term care options, cognitive health issues, and research. Dr. Toevs suggested that a statewide plan would enhance the quality of life, assure coordination of care, and use tax dollars efficiently.

She commented on the growing number of Idaho Alzheimer patients. Discussions with stakeholders indicate a need for information, affordable services, caregiver support, enhanced assessment strategies, and strengthened community-based networks.

Testifying in **support** of **SCR 112** were **MacKenzie Rodgers**, Director, Idaho Office, Alzheimer's association, and **Lee Flinn**, AARP.

Upon invitation to answer a question, **Paul Leary**, Administrator, Medicaid Plan, Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), said he will provide the committee with the number of current Medicaid Alzheimer patients, including the number of Duals.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Rusche** made a motion to send **HCR 112** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Wood(27)** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 631:** **Kris Ellis**, Idaho Health Care Association, presented, **H 631**, which continues the Intermediate Care Facility Assessment Act by removing the assessment sunset and the trustee and benefit fund provision. She requested the deletion of 56-16033e (section e), which was brought to them by the DHW.

**Paul Leary**, Administrator, Medicaid Plan, DHW, discussed the requested section deletion, stating that the language is ineffective.

**Rep. Wood(27)** said that Legislative Services suggested **H 631** be made like the hospital assessment with the removal of section e.

**Tom Whittemore**, owner, administrator, CommuniCare, testified in **support** of **H 631**, describing his business and financial difficulties, including additional costs for services no longer provided by Medicaid. He stated that this assessment is vital to his business.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Wood(27)** made a motion to send **H 631** to General Orders with the amendment to delete 56-16033e. **Rep. Rusche** seconded the motion. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Wood(27)** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**S 1260:** **Sandy Evans**, Director, Board of Nursing, presented **S 1260**, which authorizes the Board of Nursing (the Board) to develop and implement an alternative to formal discipline where minor substandard practice has occurred, ensuring early identification of deficiencies that have not reached the formal discipline level.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Rusche** made a motion to send **S 1260** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Rusche** will carry the bill on the floor.

**S 1261:** **Sandy Evans**, Director, Board of Nursing, presented **S 1261**, to authorize the Board to use its current and projected fund balance to support initiatives to develop the education, distribution and availability of nurses, as well as entering into contracts or agreements with others for this purpose. She described the sharing of data for future workforce needs. Ms. Evans stated that their dedicated dollars will continue current efforts begun with federal grant monies.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Roberts** made a motion to send **S 1261** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Margaret Henbest**, Nurse Leaders of Idaho, testified in **support** of **S 1261**, stating that the Department of Labor needs good information and the grant dollars are gone June 31, 2012. She said they are committed to developing a sustainable funding mechanism.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** **Chairman McGeachin** called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1261** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Roberts** will carry the bill on the floor.

**S 1262:** **Sandy Evans**, Director, Board of Nursing, presented **S 1262**, legislation that specifies that the required application background checks are fingerprint based, which satisfies the Federal Bureau of Investigation's requirements. There is no fiscal impact.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Thayne** made a motion to send **S 1262** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Thayne** will carry the bill on the floor.

**S 1273:** **Sandy Evans**, Director, Board of Nursing, presented **S 1273**, legislation with statute changes to advanced practice nursing to provide for consistency with nationally agreed designations for licensed nurses, remove redundancy between the statute and rule, change the board advisory committee membership to include the four advanced practice nursing roles, and increase the term of appointment for advisory committee members. A negative financial impact would occur and be covered by the Board's dedicated funds. The additional expenses are a result of travel and miscellaneous expenses for the increased committee members.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Chew** made a motion to send **S 1273** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Responding to questions, **Ms. Evans** stated that duplication in statute and rule language became an issue because changes outdated either document. This would be corrected by being able to make changes in the rule and referencing the rule in the statute.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:** **Chairman McGeachin** called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1273** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Chew** will carry the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

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Representative McGeachin  
Chair

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Irene Moore  
Secretary