

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 24, 2013

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representatives Henderson and Vander Woude

GUESTS: Ed Hawley, Department of Administration; Bev Barr, Shannon Epperley, Rosie Andueza, Russ Barron, Callie King, Department of Health and Welfare (DHW)

Chairman Wood(27) called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Perry** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2013, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO.
16-0304-1201:** **Rosie Andueza**, Program Manager, Department of Health & Welfare, presented **Docket No. 16-0304-1201**, a Pending Rule that relates to policy for eligible households that share custody of a minor child during a certification period. The change determines that the household where the child resides fifty-one percent or more of the time receives food stamps.

Responding to questions, **Ms. Andueza** stated that each certification period is for six months. Court documents and collateral statements from teachers and providers are used to determine the residence time percentage. Federal regulations do not allow splits of food stamps between households. It is possible for one parent with less than fifty-one percent to claim the child and qualify for food stamps, when the other parent is not eligible due to income status.

For the record, no one indicated their desire to testify.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Perry** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 16-0304-1201**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO.
16-0304-1202:** **Rosie Andueza**, presented **Docket No. 16-0304-1202**, which update the previous use of "guide dog" to "all trained service animals." The spousal definition is being modified to reflect that Idaho no longer recognizes common law marriage. Additional changes provide application processing outside of the local office and screening of the applicant, instead of the application, for eligibility.

Answering committee questions, **Ms. Andueza** explained that the scope of qualified service animals has expanded to include miniature horses and monkeys, who provide assistance. However, the animals must be licensed and trained to provide the service.

For the record, no one indicated their desire to testify.

MOTION: **Rep. Hancey** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 16-0304-1202**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO.
16-0305-1201:** **Shannon Epperley**, Program Manager, Division of Welfare, presented **Docket No. 16-0305-1201**, for Medicaid Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled (AABD) program. The Pending Rule allows an individual to serve an asset transfer penalty while receiving long-term care services in a facility or in a residential setting through Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS). There is no change in calculation methods, levy methods, or estate recovery efforts.

For the record, no one indicated their desire to testify.

MOTION: **Rep. Rusche** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 16-0305-1201**.

Rep. Rusche commented that services for AABD are a large Medicaid budget item and these are important controls to reserve the resources for those most in need.

Responding to questions, **Ms. Epperley** said that Assets are often transferred or sold to family members. When an applicant recovers the asset value there is no penalty, because the situation has been rectified; however, if they are unable to do any recovery, a penalty does occur. The existing rules require the penalty is served only in a nursing home, which could cause them to move. This change allows them to serve the penalty in their current facility. She explained that serving a penalty refers to a period of ineligibility for equitable services. Federal statute allows a five-year window of time for transfers prior to eligibility that would not be considered a basis for any penalty. Ms. Epperley stated that, although a cost neutral effect is indicated, they hope that a cost savings will occur.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Wood(27)** called for a vote on the motion to approve **Docket No. 16-0305-1201**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 16-0305-1202: **Callie King**, Program Specialist, Division of Welfare, presented **Docket No. 16-0305-1202**, which pertains to AABD State Long Term Care budget allowance guidelines. When a Social Security benefit cost of living adjustment (COLA) occurs, budget allowances are increased at an 80/20 split, with 80% for rent, utilities and food and 20% for personal needs. Changes provide a more equitable method of handling COLA increases by eliminating the 80/20 split and replacing it with a percentage-based calculation. This change will not impact Medicaid dollars.

For the record, no one indicated their desire to testify.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Perry** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 16-0305-1202**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

Representative Wood(27)
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary