

MINUTES  
**HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Friday, January 31, 2014

**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:** Representative Rusche

**GUESTS:** Roger Sherman and Rosie Degadillo Reilly, Idaho Children's Trust; Shannon Dunstan, State Dept of Ed; Laura J. Mahan, YMCA for Idaho Children's Trust; LeAnn Simmons, Elli Brown, Danielle Kuhrt, Idaho Voices for Children; David Simnitt, Medicaid; Tana Cory, Occupational Licenses; Rob Luce and Matt Wimmer, DHW; Kendra Knighten, Governor's Office; Kris Ellis and Tony Smith, Id. Midwifery Council; Daleen Nelson, IDAEYC

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

**MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Perry** made a motion to accept the minutes of January 20, January 21, January 23, January 24, January 27, and January 28, 2014. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 357:** **Tana Cory**, Chief, Bureau of Occupational Licenses, presented **H 357** on behalf of the Speech and Hearing Services Board. The current quorum definition is being amended to strike the requirement that one member of each profession and the public member are present. The change does not modify the number required for a quorum but it will allow the Board to better respond to those it serves by providing a relevant profession Board member is present.

Responding to questions, **Ms. Cory** said the Board physically meets four times a year to review and approve budgets and expenditures. They rely on conference calls during the interim to deal with applications and other situations. This becomes important when a Board member is unavailable and an applicant's job is pending.

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

**MOTION:** **Rep. Hixon** made a motion to send **H 357** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Hixon** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 352:** **Matt Wimmer**, Bureau Chief, Medical Care, Division of Medicaid, Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), presented **H 352**, legislation to update the Medicaid Premium Assistance Program, known as Access to Health Insurance (AHI), that purchases private insurance for individuals not qualified for Medicaid health coverage. Federal authority for program funding was to sunset at the end of September, 2013, with a temporary extension bridge negotiated to allow coverage transition to the Health Insurance Exchange or other insurance programs, preventing coverage duplication.

Responding to Committee questions, **Mr. Wimmer** explained that 70% is federal funding and 30% is State of Idaho revenue from an insurance premium tax dedicated to support this and other programs.

**Paul Leary**, Administrator, Division of Medicaid, was invited to testify. He explained that this pilot program was set up to handle a maximum of 1,000 people and only reached about 350 adults. Of that group, any above 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) will be able to buy plans on the Exchange.

**Mr. Leary** further explained this program works with small business adult plans and does not affect the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In 2014 legislation allowed the shifting of funds not used by the Medicaid AHI to CHIP, which was expanding rapidly. In October, 2015, the federal funding of CHIP will increase by 23%, providing 100% federal funding for CHIP, eliminating any state funding. The extension bridge for funding the AHI provides a three-month stop gap for extra time to help individuals under 100% FPL to find coverage. New enrollees are possible and a waiver extension could return in the form of 2015 legislation. All individuals above the 100% FPL have transitioned to the Exchange. These changes will have no impact on the premium tax. This program has been available to any qualifying small business.

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

**MOTION:** **Rep. Malek** made a motion to send **H 352** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Vander Woude, Hixon, and Perry** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Malek** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 353:** **Roger Sherman**, Executive Director, Idaho Children's Trust Fund (ICTF), presented **H 353.** The ICTF was established to prevent child abuse and neglect by partnering with citizens, communities, organizations, and state agencies to provide a system of prevention using the best research-based practices. **H 353** updates the original statute and brings it into actual practice compliance. It also expands the Board's authority to secure private or grant funding. The ICTF's trust fund account has a current balance of \$1,359,758.36 and no General Funds have been requested or received. A decline in state tax donations and the trust fund interest have made it evident that additional funding sources are necessary. Also updated are provisions for a full-time Executive Director, additional staff, rent office space, purchase supplies, and the Board authority to set salaries.

Responding to Committee questions, **Mr. Sherman** explained that he would remain in the full-time Executive Director position; however, the changes note the position in statute and provide salary reviews by the Board, with raises coinciding with the existing state plan.

**Rob Luce**, Administrator, Division of Family and Community Services, DHW, testified **in support** of **H 353** explaining that Idaho Code 39.60.08 states the DHW is responsible for the management and accounting of monies expended by the ICTF.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Morse** made a motion to send **H 353** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Answering additional questions, **Mr. Sherman** said a clarification was made to appointments to the Board. Previous wording was ambiguous and the new wording clarifies that appointments to three state positions are by the specified Department or state agency officials. They are able to utilize many of the DHW services and have few administrative costs. Additional staff is used to support and build statewide outreach, collaboration, and program development.

**Rosie Reilly**, ICTF Board Member, Region 3, testified **in support** of **H 353**, stating the statute change provides tools to raise money to support their community-based work. In her career, she has seen the consequences of abuse and neglect, which follow into adulthood and cause mental health issues. The Board is interested in bringing current practice and the existing statute into alignment.

**Mr. Luce**, was asked to respond to a Committee question. He explained that the Executive Director change to full time will increase **Mr. Sherman's** weekly hours from 39 to 40. Two existing part time employees will continue in their current capacity. This is a natural evolution of the Fund, with changes to match what it has become, is doing, and wants to do in the future.

Responding to a question, **Mr. Sherman** replied that allowing for monetary receipts has been confusing without statute authorization. They currently do little soliciting and see the growing need to do more.

**Shannon Dunston**, ICTF Board Member, Representing Superintendent Luna, testifying **in support of H 353**, remarked that prevention from abuse and neglect will improve school learning. Maltreated children receive lower scores and exhibit abnormal social behaviors that often lead to suspension. The ICTF and State Department of Education work together to provide child abuse and prevention training and shaken baby material to state educators.

**Laura Mayhan**, Executive Director, Youth Development Branch, Treasure Valley YMCA, testifying **in support of H 353**, said they have been training their staff in abuse prevention and are exploring ways to train parents. The ICTF has worked with them and the Stewards for Children Program in this effort. The ICTF has shown them how to leverage their small dollars for a greater impact.

**Richard Johnson**, Family Advocates Program, testified **in support of H 353**. He explained the Family Advocates Program for children removed from homes because of imminent danger. Mr. Johnson emphasized the growing number of children being impacted by abuse and neglect and prevention's role in improving homes. Their Baby Steps Program strengthens young families and, with a three-year ICTF grant, they have been able to strengthen the program with services that address measurable outcomes and national standards.

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

**VOTE ON MOTION:**

**Chairman Wood(27)** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 353** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Hancey** requested he be recorded as voting **NAY. Rep. Morse** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**RS 22687:**

**Kris Ellis**, Idaho Midwifery Council, presented **RS 22687**, proposed legislation that replaces **H 401**, which allowed a mother to go 82 weeks without giving birth and has been clarified to a lesser time frame. The other change corrects a second sunset date that occurred through a mix up in the Legislative Services assignment of statute numbers.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Hixon** made a motion to introduce **RS 22687. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 22697:**

**Rep. Ed Morse** presented **RS 22697**, proposed legislation that provides additional technological tools for public assistance fraud prevention or fraud abatement. Adaptable software, available to government agencies, is used by credit card companies to spot anomalies in spending patterns and notify customers. With this software, provider patterns can be noted and applied for fraud audit and control. It would also provide statistical profiling, analytics, data modeling, and recovery audit contractors.

**Rep. Morse** stated the cost benefit use analysis to implement and employ a reward program is provided, but not mandated. This proposed legislation also authorizes rules for implementation of provisions in the Affordable Care Act and mandates, when available federal funds and cost shares are to be utilized. It also requires an annual report to the germane Legislative Committees, so success and deterrent effect are public information.

**MOTION:** Rep. Hancey made a motion to introduce **RS 22697**.

Responding to questions, **Rep. Morse** said the impacts include available state cost share decrease from 70/30 to 90/10, and the potential revenue increase from the success rate and the degree of deterrents. There will be software costs, but the DHW suggests the effects will be cost neutral. This legislation, originally addressing Medicaid fraud, was expanded to include all public assistance programs. He said the Idaho Medical Association and Idaho Hospital Association have reviewed this proposed legislation.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** **Chairman Wood(27)** called for a vote on the motion to introduce **RS 22697**.  
**Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

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Representative Wood(27)  
Chair

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Irene Moore  
Secretary