

MINUTES  
**HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 04, 2014

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW20

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

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Rep. Vander Woude

**GUESTS:** Julie Taylor, Blue Cross of Idaho; Mike Brassey, St. Luke's Health System; Elli Brown, Veritas Advisors; Cynthia York, DHW; Tony Poinelli, IAC; Steve Millard, IHA; Stacy Satterlee, ACS CAN; Elizabeth Criner, ISDA/ACSCAN; Kendal M. Tucker, LPC, and Susan Perkins, Ph.D, Idaho Counseling Association

**Chairman Wood(27)** called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**RS 23038:** **Tony Poinelli**, Idaho Association of Counties, presented **RS 23038**, regarding the indigent health care process for counties and providers. Changes address the application process. Clarification is made to definitions for a completed application, timely filing dates, and medical record acknowledgements.

Responding to questions, **Mr. Poinelli** said the program is incident based and non-emergency or ongoing care is still allowed, dependent on the billing code. A medical professional reviews all cases to determine appropriateness and eligibility.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Romrell** made a motion to introduce **RS 23038. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Chairman Wood(27)** turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Perry.**

**Dr. Troy Rohn**, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Boise State University, presented the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) update, including the statewide plan.

He described this irreversible brain disease and its relationship to dementia. **Dr. Rohn** also stated the majority of cases are not hereditary and they are researching a noted genetic risk increase.

The statewide strategy emphasizes increased public awareness, information access, support services coordination, ADRD specific training, and data collection development.

An informational relationship developed with the statewide 2-1-1 Care Line now offers a transfer to the National Alzheimer's Association's line. Additional efforts to promote this phone resource include Governor Otter's Alzheimer's public service announcement (PSA), which has been shown at medical conferences and symposiums.

Research and education costs are minimal, when compared to costs associated with other leading causes of death is the U.S. Baby Boomers are now becoming a part of the growing number of Alzheimer's patients. By age 85, the fastest growing Idaho age segment, the chance of getting Alzheimer's increases by 50%, and 260,000 Idahoans already have this disease.

**Catherine Dickson**, Senior, Boise State University, explained the data collected from the 2-1-1 Care Line will indicate much more after three or more years. However, the number of calls per quarter increased during the summer months, after the PSA aired and the bulk of their marketing was completed. Individual referrals were strong in the third quarter and referenced the flyer or brochure, which are also available on their website.

**Joel Loiacono**, Executive Director, Inland North West Chapter, Alzheimer's Association, said our nation spends \$203 million annually on Alzheimer's. It is the most expensive disease, surpassing heart disease. The Alzheimer's Act provides cost savings and correct diagnosis hope through Medicare and Medicaid incentives. Federal legislation has also funded additional research and caregiver support.

Answering questions, **Dr. Rohn** said whatever is good for the heart is good for the mind. He encouraged physical activity, social activity, and using our brains. Assisted living and skilled nursing facility reimbursement rates are being evaluated because they limit ADRD patient choices. A future program could include community-based research care coaches to train families.

**Lindsey Hunt**, Student, Idaho State University (ISU), gave a presentation on the Idaho State University School of Pharmacy. She described the prerequisites and types of study at the School of Pharmacy. Most students do a post graduate year two (PGY2) residency for focused areas of study. Fifty percent of their graduating students leave Idaho, because they want more training and more certification than is available.

**Andrea Winterswyk**, Student, Idaho State University, described their statewide patient outreach activities. They go to heart health clinics to monitor cholesterol, blood pressure, and screen for diabetes. Immunization, their largest evidence-based focus, has resulted in 5,363 Idahoans immunized so far this year.

The students are very active in community education. Their prescription based drug abuse presentation uses the Idaho Digital Learning Academy. Poison prevention for Kindergarten to second grade children teaches recognition of household poisons. They are planning future clinics to address herbal dietary supplement awareness and over-the-counter drug education.

All of their projects are financed through fund raising. In 2013 they raised \$24,800, with donations of \$8,000 to Make a Wish and \$700 to HODIA, a program dedicated to provide camps and activities for youth with diabetes. **Ms. Winterswyk** said they are a small school with national impact and described their many awards.

**Cory Nelson**, Student, Idaho State University, discussed the medical system change and future role of Pharmacists. Pharmacists can help with both primary care and medication non-adherence issues. Instances of pharmacist involvement have reduced medication therapy costs. St. Luke's hired an antibiotic stewardship pharmacist who saved them over \$197,000 in antibiotic costs in one year. The Mountain States Tumor Institute (MSTI) found pharmacist interventions reduced prescription error rates by 2% and were accepted 88% of the time. Saint Alphonsus had a trial Emergency Room (ER) pharmacist that proved so successful they are now pursuing a full position. He asked that pharmacists be allowed to practice at the top of their education, be involved in patient care, and be included in collaborative health care teams. Students pursue jobs outside of Idaho because other states provide these advantages.

Answering questions, Lindsey Hunt said there is an 18% applicant acceptance rate, with graduating classes each year of about 70 students. Community colleges offer pre-pharmacy curriculums. The necessary prerequisites can take three or four years, depending on whether or not a bachelors degree is pursued. This is followed by four years of study that can be lengthened by a residency.

**Kendal Tucker**, President, Idaho Counseling Association and **Susan Perkins**, President Elect, Idaho Counseling Association gave a presentation on the Idaho Counseling Association. Counselors assess, diagnose, and treat mental, behavior, eating, marriage, and school issues. Reimbursement, available for social workers at all levels, is not always available for counselors. Idaho is ranked fifty-first in spending per capita for mental health organizations. Of Idaho's 44 counties 35 are considered rural or frontier. Counselors promote human development throughout the life span. The Association promotes the counseling and human development profession. They are here to help, train, and be a resource.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

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Representative Perry  
Chair

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Irene Moore  
Secretary