

MINUTES  
**SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 11, 2015

**TIME:** 3:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW54

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Heider, Vice Chairman Martin, Senators Johnson(Lodge), Nuxoll, Hagedorn, Tippetts, Lee and Schmidt.

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Lacey

**NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

**CONVENED:** **Chairman Heider** convened the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

**PRESENTATION:** **Christine Pisani**, Executive Director, Idaho Council on Developmentally Disabled, shared with the Committee the vision, findings and 2015 initiatives of the Collaborative Work Group (CWG). The CWG is comprised of a range of people with developmental disabilities, service providers, advocates, agencies and policymakers. The CWG has set a goal to help developmentally disabled adults living in Idaho to enjoy the same opportunities, freedoms and rights as their neighbors by 2020. Developmentally disabled individuals have unique needs, and as such, the CWG seeks to design the system so it provides optimum support and opportunity for productive living (see attachment 1).

**Chairman Heider** asked the Committee if there were any questions. **Senator Hagedorn** said that developmental disability is typically defined as something that happened at birth. He asked if these services are applicable to people who have been in accidents and have had a traumatic brain injury. He wondered if they were part of the focus group. **Director Pisani** responded that federal and state guidelines state that if those injuries occur before the age of 21, then they typically do access services. For many people with such injuries the fit isn't always there with the current facilities available. **Senator Schmidt** asked if a discussion had been held on whether case management would be appropriate for such injuries. **Director Pisani** said that her organization supports a quality managed care model. There is no state that has incorporated people with developmental disabilities into a managed care model. It is possible that a managed care model would work, but more thought needs to go into that scenario. These services are typically ones that insurance companies don't think of supporting. Developmentally disabled people are not usually sick, they need services to support them in living their daily lives. She went on to state that as a result of H 260, their organization had been given the responsibility to work with the managed care model. **Senator Schmidt** said that he questions why managed care would not be an appropriate fit for these needs under the Medicaid system. **Director Pisani** explained that with approximately 28,000 people in Idaho living with a developmental disability, many do not qualify or don't access services for various reasons. The eligibility for the developmental disability waiver requires that an adult meet an institutional level of care, and that is determined based on the following criteria: A person must have an age equivalent score of 8 years old, and a general maladaptive score of -22 or below. There is an assessment process to go through to qualify for the developmental disability waiver. Most of the people living in the State either don't qualify or don't access the waiver services.

**Vice Chairman Martin** asked how many people out of the 28,000 who qualify for these services actually use them. **Director Pisani** said the number is estimated to be about 6,000 children and adults who are served through Medicaid. **Vice Chairman Martin** asked why the other 22,000 were not using the service. **Director Pisani** said that those are questions she doesn't have the answers to. She assumes that people are getting the support they need through their homes and communities or they do not qualify for the developmental disability waiver. **Senator Hagedorn** asked where the 28,000 number came from. **Director Pisani** responded that the number comes from a formula used to extrapolate numbers based on the population. It is an estimate that is used by all states.

**Chairman Heider** said that testimony would be given by Kelly Keelie.

**TESTIMONY:**

**Mr. Keelie**, a representative from Vocational Services of Idaho and a new member to the CWG, shared his excitement about being a part of this organization. He has been working with people with disabilities since 1978 in various capacities, and he feels very strongly that helping disabled people become employed is the most important thing that can be done. He sees the CWG accomplishing that goal.

**Chairman Heider** commented that he went to visit a young man who worked at Solo Cup and wondered if that would be part of this program. **Mr. Keelie** said that he assumed it was. There are all types of people working in different types of venues. A lot of individuals served by this organization receive a minimal amount of help through vocational rehab. With just the minimal support, they are able to hold jobs in the community. **Chairman Heider** suggested that the Legislators spend a day with some of the people in this program to get a firsthand experience.

**Chairman Heider** thanked everyone for attending the meeting. **Director Pisani** asked the Committee to read the report provided and thanked everyone for their time. **Senator Lee** pointed out the effort being made to be inclusive to all the individuals receiving these services is vital. **Director Pisani** stated that she is excited to be able to continue this work and to share Idaho's results with other states. **Vice Chairman Martin** said that he went to work with a young man at Marshalls. He commended this young man for working and also Marshalls for providing these types of work opportunities. **Director Pisani** stated that the "Take Your Legislator to Work Day" is an event to connect Legislators and work providers and to see the untapped work force that is available.

**ADJOURNED:** **Chairman Heider** adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

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Senator Heider  
Chair

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Erin Denker  
Secretary

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Sharon Pennington  
Asst. Secretary