

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 02, 2015

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Heider, Vice Chairman Martin, Senators Lodge, Nuxoll, Hagedorn, Tippets, Lee and Jordan

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Schmidt

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** called the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:04 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Hagedorn** moved to approve the Minutes of February 3, 2015. **Vice Chairman Martin** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
Senator Tippets moved to approve the Minutes of February 11, 2015. **Senator Nuxoll** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

UC REQUEST: **Chairman Heider** asked for unanimous consent to send **RS 23704C1** to a privileged committee for a print hearing. There were no objections.

GUB APPT: **Senator Heider** introduced **James V. Giuffre** as the candidate for reappointment to the State Board of Health and Welfare (Board).

James Vincent (Jim) Giuffre stated he has lived in the State of Idaho for almost 40 years. He has served one term on the Board and would like to continue to serve. He was formerly Director of the North Central Idaho District Health Department and Health Director of the Central District Health Department in the Treasure Valley. He said he has stayed close to the Legislature in its dealings with the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW). Today he serves as Chief Operating Officer of Healthwise, a nationally known consumer health information company. They produce health information in print and electronic formats used by almost every health plan in the country including Cigna, Aetna, and Kaiser Permanente and many of the major Idaho health systems including St. Luke's, St. Alphonsus and others.

Mr. Giuffre said he obtained an undergraduate degree in biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a masters degree in public health from the University of California, Berkeley. His experience on the Board has primarily focused on rules and regulations, but he is very passionate about improving access to care for all Idahoans. He said he will stay very close to the development of the patient-centered medical home (PCH) initiative now funded by the federal government Center for Medicaid Services. **Mr. Giuffre** emphasized that he advocates helping people make better health decisions and has focused his lifestyle on that. He said he would appreciate the opportunity to serve again, and he would be happy to answer any questions.

Senator Heider said as a Board member himself, he appreciates Jim and the other members of the Board because they are very in-depth in their questioning, they have a great deal of background and it is a pleasure to watch them work.

Senator Nuxoll asked Mr. Giuffre what he considered to be the best thing and the worst thing that have happened in health care in the last five years. **Mr. Giuffre** said the best thing has been electronic health records because they give the care team access to everything about the patient, thus helping the patient and care team make much better health decisions. **Mr. Giuffre** said the challenge he sees is how to get everyone under the umbrella of the lowest cost health care service that is most appropriate for them. Too many people are using emergency rooms at the highest cost for entrance into the hospital systems. He said the opportunity exists to get people under the health care umbrella through the Idaho Exchange, the expansion of Medicaid and the PCH initiatives. He feels those opportunities will encourage more individual responsibility for health and systems to support their decisions.

Vice Chairman Martin asked Mr. Giuffre's perspective on the fee-for-service system versus the care management system. **Mr. Giuffre** said the fee-for-service system has been good, but it primarily rewards performance of more services. It is structured so the more the system does for an individual the higher the payment mechanism in place for it today. He said care management really allows the most appropriate care at just the right moment in time and rewards outcomes and value. He believes there is a ground swell movement where health systems and clinicians will take more risk, therefore they should be paid for taking on that risk and performing only those services that really assist individuals in their personal health care decisions.

Senator Nuxoll mentioned she saw that Mr. Giuffre holds a first degree black belt in karate. She asked why he got it. **Mr. Giuffre** said he received it more than 30 years ago primarily for personal development in mental and physical discipline. The greatest reward he had was in teaching young children to develop self-confidence and skills. He does not practice karate as much today, but it's still an important part of his life.

Senator Hagedorn said Idaho Code § 56-1005 requires that not more than four members of the Board appointed by the Governor shall be from any one political party. He noted on the application that Mr. Giuffre did not say one way or another. He asked Mr. Giuffre what political party he is registered with, if he is registered. **Mr. Giuffre** said he is registered as a Democrat, however as an independent Idahoan he votes for the best qualified person.

MOTION:

Vice Chairman Martin moved to send the gubernatorial appointment of James Giuffre to the State Board of Health and Welfare to the floor with recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business, **Chairman Heider** adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Senator Heider
Chair

Erin Denker
Secretary

Paula Tonkin
Assistant Secretary