

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 11, 2015

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Wood, Vice Chairman Packer, Representatives Hixon, Perry, Romrell, Vander Woude, Beyeler, Redman, Troy, Rusche, Chew

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Vander Woude, Perry

GUESTS: Ellen Burnell, Stephanie Leavell, Mary Brieschke, and Bill Dluhash, Music Therapy; Shawna Walz and Roger Seiber, Idaho Diaper Bank; Sen. Janie Ward-Engelking; Richard Mussler-Wright, Idaho Nonprofit Center.

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Packer** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 25, 26, 27, and March 3, 2015 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

SCR 109: **Sen. Lee Heider**, District 24, presented **SCR 109**. Music therapy provides benefits to patients in various medical settings.

Matthew Jordan, Board Certified Music Therapist, further presented **SCR 109**. This type of therapy uses music to meet nonmusical patient goals and increase their functions. They are not performers or teaching people to use instruments. Beginning in the 1950's in Blackfoot, there are currently twelve musical therapists in Idaho. Therapist training includes a bachelor's degree in music or music therapy, 1,040 hours of internship, and a certification exam. Music therapy masters degrees are available.

Music therapy can help patients feel safe, give them a voice, and provide a way to connect with loved ones. It reaches areas of remembrance when their disease seems to have eliminated all memories. Many potential patients and families are unaware of this therapy.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Packer** made a motion to send **SCR 109** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Rusche** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

SCR 110: **Sen. Janie Ward-Engelking**, District 18, presented **SCR 110**, a resolution to promote diaper awareness in Idaho. Food stamps and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) vouchers cannot be used to purchase diapers.

Shawna Walz, Founder, Executive Director, Idaho Diaper Bank, further presented **SCR 110**. She explained the struggle to provide children living in poverty with clean, dry diapers, without government resources for this basic necessity. A day's supply of disposable diapers is required for children attending early childhood, which is necessary for parents who work or go to school. These families have limited funds to pay for diapers, rent, heating, and food. The babies are paying the price when diapers are reused or have their use extended by other means. Parents may accelerate toilet training, an area of high-abuse occurrence.

The Idaho Diaper Bank, a 501(c)3 business, takes the burden off other organizations trying to meet this need. Bulk purchases are shipped to a warehouse, repackaged, and provided to partner agencies for distribution in tandem with their other support systems. More parents keep prenatal and well baby visits if diapers are given to them at the time of the visit.

Responding to a question, **Ms. Walz** said the Idaho Diaper Need Awareness Week coincides with the National Diaper Need Awareness Week. Planned events from now until that week will increase state awareness and help the 35,000 babies in Idaho living in need.

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

MOTION:

Rep. Beyeler made a motion to send **SCR 110** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Vice Chairman Packer** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Mike Berlin, Idaho Alzheimer's Planning Group, reported on the progress of the Group, which consists of educators, clinicians, researchers, and concerned citizens in partnership with a variety of educational institutions, the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Idaho Caregiver Alliance, and other stakeholder groups.

Medicaid spends nineteen times more on Alzheimer's patients because the disease lasts many years and requires intensive care, especially in the later stages. Of the population with the disease, two-thirds are female, who tend to live longer, increasing their chances of having the disease. Researchers are working on methods of delaying the disease onset and costs by allowing caregivers to home care patients as long as possible.

The Governor participated in a public service announcement to increase awareness. The DHW Director introduced them to the 2-1-1 Care Line, which is helping them track Alzheimer's disease calls. The movie "Still Alice" depicts what someone goes through with early onset of the disease, an increasing diagnosis.

The group sponsored the Idaho Culture Change Coalition to decrease the skilled nursing facilities costs. The person-centered care treatment approach does not argue with a patient's reality and includes the Veterans Affairs Memory Project calming personalized music therapy. The use of music therapy during times of agitation impacts a primordial portion of the brain that Alzheimer's seems to affect last.

Work with the Idaho Healthcare Association and the Center for the Study of Aging is addressing the lack of behavioral health services for individuals who become psychotic as a result of their dementia and are not accepted by behavioral health facilities.

SCR 111 is current legislation recognizing the importance of family caregivers and the unique opportunity to integrate this component of our healthcare system into the State Healthcare Innovation Plan (SHIP).

Answering a question, **Mr. Berlin** said fear keeps persons from taking the early detection gene test. An early detection breakthrough uses a positron emission tomography (PET) brain scan that can identify the development of plaque and tangles on the brain and view the progress of new medications to prevent or treat the plaque and tangles.

Dr. Troy Rohn, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Boise State University, was invited to answer a question. An eye scan is a quick noninvasive way to detect Alzheimer's disease. There are no good bio markers to make a 100% diagnosis. The brain scan is very expensive and not covered by Medicaid, although lobbying to allow coverage continues. There are a lot of benefits to early detection for patients and caregivers. Although two main classes of drugs are often combined for efficacy, disease modifying drugs are needed to impact the pathology. Drugs that stop the plaques and tangles are being used for early-indicated patients.

Lee Flinn, AARP Idaho, was invited to answer a question. She stated **SCR 111**, has been reprinted as **SCR 123** to remove standard language about participating legislators receiving a per diem, which is not correct.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

Representative Wood
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary