

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 19, 2016

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

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

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

GUESTS: Bev Barr, Department of Health & Welfare (DHW) Rules; Lauren Valentine, Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force; Lori Wolff, Julie Hammon, Kristin Matthews, Camille Schiller, Malinda Ramirez, Sarah Buenrostro, and Callie Harrold, DHW; Christine Tiddens, Catholic Charities; Brad Hunt, O.A.R.C.

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Packer** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 14, 2016. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman Wood turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Packer**.

**DOCKET NO.
16-0301-1501:** **Julie Hammon**, Deputy Administrator, Division of Welfare, presented **Docket No. 16-0301-1501**, which reinstates the Transitional Medicaid (TM) Program for adults, with children, who lose Medicaid benefits due to income increases beyond the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The transition allows twelve months of continued Medicaid while the adult is securing other health coverage, aligning with the Social Security Act. The fiscal impact will be \$9,771,060, with \$6,928,649 from federal funds and \$2,842,411 from the State General Funds. Unnecessary eligible institutions language and authorized employment references are also removed.

Responding to committee questions, **Ms. Hammon** said the federal requirements allow the states to choose between a six- or twelve-month extension period. The six-month option requires a report for a possible additional six month extension. The twelve-month option was selected after determining the anticipated number of applicants and the additional staffing required.

MOTION: **Rep. Romrell** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 16-0301-1501**.

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

Answering additional committee questions, **Ms. Hammon** explained a sliding scale to maintain some of the services may not be allowed by policy. If allowed, an automated sliding scale system would have to be built, with additional training for participants. Medicaid provides up to eight months of programs for legal refugees, with regular program eligibility available afterwards. Children in the transitional homes may still be eligible for Child Health Improvement Programs. Tax credits may also be available to relieve the cost of insurance.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:** **Chairman Packer** called for a vote on the motion to approve **Docket No. 16-0301-1501**. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Hixon** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

DOCKET NO. 16-0305-1501: **Callie Harrold**, Medicaid Policy Specialist, Division of Welfare, presented **Docket No. 16-0305-1501**. Individuals in the Aged, Blind and Disabled (AABD) population may qualify for long term care services. At that time an income assessment based on their total income minus allowable expenses determines their contribution toward the cost of services. The provider collects that portion from the participant and bills the Department for the balance. This Rule change clarifies allowable expenses to include those incurred up to three months prior to the assistance application. The annual fiscal impact is projected to be \$403,600, with \$120,960 from state funds. This is in compliance with federal regulations.

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

MOTION: **Rep. Beyeler** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 16-0305-1501**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 16-0305-1502: **Callie Harrold**, Medicaid Policy Specialist, Division of Welfare, presented **Docket No. 16-0305-1502**, which has federally required updates to the self-employment income calculation. The incorrect eligibility of non-citizens with a lawful status of employment is removed to prevent erroneous payment.

MOTION: **Rep. Hixon** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 16-0305-1502**.

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

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Packer** called for a vote on the motion to approve **Docket No. 16-0305-1502**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 16-0304-1501: **Kristen Matthews**, Program Manager, DHW, presented **Docket No. 16-0304-1501**. Changes clarify the Food Stamp Program to keep it in compliance with program regulations and Department food processing standards. Broad Based Categorical Eligible households must also meet all other program criteria, including income guidelines. Households with ineligible individuals may be eligible for lower resource limits of \$2,250 or \$3,250, penalizing the households for non-compliance. Food Stamp eligibility resources for a household include all members, even those disqualified.

MOTION: **Rep. Hixon** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 16-0304-1501**.

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

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Packer** called for a vote on the motion to approve **Docket No. 16-0304-1501**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 16-0402-1501: **Kristen Matthews**, Program Manager, DHW, presented **Docket No. 16-0402-1501**. The Idaho Telecommunications Service Assistance Program (ITSAP) provides telephone assistance to eligible low income households through a contract administrator. The Rule change clarifies the Department as the responsible program administrator, in alignment with state policies. There is no fiscal impact to the state.

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

MOTION: **Rep. Redman** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 16-0402-1501**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 16-0413-1501: **Kristen Matthews**, Program Manager, DHW, presented **Docket No. 16-0413-1501**. The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TFAP) provides eligible families with food commodities provided through local food pantries and community agencies. A contractor administers the program on the Department's behalf. The Rule changes clarify the Department as the responsible program administrator, in alignment with state policies. There is no fiscal impact to the state.

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

MOTION: **Rep. Romrell** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 16-0413-1501. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 16-0414-1501: **Kristen Matthews**, Program Manager, DHW, presented **Docket No. 16-0414-1501.** The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps eligible families pay their heating utility bills. It uses a contractor to administer the program. The Rule change updates language and clarifies the Department as the responsible program administrator, in alignment with state policies. There is no fiscal impact to the state. Answering a committee question, Ms. Matthews said the intake manual, although no longer available on the program website, will be available by request. Program information is available on the state and contractor websites.

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

MOTION: **Rep. Redman** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 16-0414-1501. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 16-0416-1501: **Kristen Matthews**, Program Manager, DHW, presented **Docket No. 16-0416-1501** The Weatherization Assistance Program helps low income families through annual federal grants and uses a contractor administrator. The Rule changes update language, obsolete references, and clarify the Department is the responsible program administrator, in alignment with state policies. There is no fiscal impact to the state. Responding to a committee question, Ms. Matthews, stated the federal grant pays 100%, with a set percentage for administrative costs.

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

MOTION: **Rep. Hixon** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 16-0416-1501. Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting as adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Representative Packer
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary