

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, January 27, 2017

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Lincoln Auditorium

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Heider, Vice Chairman Souza, Senators Lee, Anthon, Foreman, and Jordan

Chairman Wood, Vice Chairman Packer, Representatives Hixon, Perry, Vander Woude, Redman, Gibbs, Blanksma, Hanks, Kingsley, Zollinger, Chew, and Rubel

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senators Martin, Harris, and Agenbroad

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 Joint Meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee and the House Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 8:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY: The following persons provided testimony regarding the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) provider contract with Veyo:

- **Darren Talley** with White Tail Transportation, testified on behalf of NEMT providers in support of restoring funding for the NEMT program to 2009 levels;
- **Vanessa Johnson** of Access Behavioral Health spoke about problems with Veyo customer service and the need to improve staffing and funding for transportation;
- **Jenna Dewitz** from Pathways of Idaho testified about problems with transportation service provided by Veyo;
- **Josh Komenda**, President of Veyo, testified in support of its NEMT contract and reaffirmed his commitment to Idaho caregivers and patients to improve service;
- **Beverly Hines**, a licensed professional counselor, testified regarding Veyo customer service problems and lost revenue she experienced as a result of patients' missed appointments;
- **Amber Irish**, former transportation company owner, testified regarding problems with the Veyo contract and the closing of her business since Veyo became the broker;
- **Kleeta Newby** of KBM Transportation testified regarding customer service problems with the Veyo contract and her loss of clientele since Veyo became the broker.

The following persons provided testimony regarding Medicaid expansion:

- **Joe Raiden** testified in support of increasing Medicaid funding to close the "gap" for working poor and maintain funding for mental health treatment;
- **Lauren Necochea** with Health Voices for Children testified in favor of expanding Medicaid in order for Idaho to get its fair share of federal funding;
- **Kara Kuntz**, a family practice physician, spoke in favor of Medicaid expansion and in support of unpaid caregivers;
- **Jessica Chilcott** testified in favor of Medicaid expansion and maintaining the Affordable Care Act;
- **Ada Casaza** testified in support of the work of the interim work group and urged a solution to close the gap in health insurance coverage;
- **Linda Anderson** testified in support of expanding Medicaid funding;
- **Russ Duke**, Director for Idaho Central District Health Department, spoke in favor of closing the health insurance coverage gap;
- **Kiran Spees** testified in support of expanding Medicaid and described her experience with another state's health care system;
- **Melody Hayden** testified in support of closing the health care coverage gap;
- **Robert Gehrke**, Chair of the Recovery Support Services Committee of the Region 6 Behavioral Health Board, testified in support of Medicaid expansion and increased funding for mental health and drug treatment for inmates after release from custody;
- **Cathy Deckys**, a nursing professor at Boise State University, testified in support of closing the health insurance gap.

Patrick and Jessica Rachels testified in support of passing a bill requiring doctors to provide educational information on the effects of cytomegalovirus.

Mike Berlin spoke on behalf of Idaho Alzheimer's Planning Group relating to need to improve care options for Alzheimer's patients with behavioral issues.

Michelle Sterling testified about her family's difficulties obtaining mental health care treatment and assistance in Idaho for her son.

Laura Scuri, owner of Access Behavioral Health, spoke about the need to develop a comprehensive plan for care and funding for behavioral health issues.

Doug Loertscher testified in support of increasing funding for services to treat developmental disabilities and improving the assessment process to start services for disabled persons sooner.

Dan Chadwick, on behalf of the Idaho Association of Counties, testified in support of increasing available treatment facilities and peace officer training for adults with behavior health issues.

Hannah Stern testified in support of universal health care and agencies such as Planned Parenthood.

Nicole Sherwood of Developmental Concepts spoke in favor of providing appropriate funding for treatment of developmental disabilities and the importance of paying higher than entry-level wages for caregivers.

Jenny Willison spoke in support of repealing the faith healing exemption.

Jinny Peterson of Health Freedom Idaho spoke in support of her right to choose treatment options for herself and her family.

Valerie Charles of Health Freedom Idaho spoke in support of revising the immunization exemption law to eliminate the use of the Department of Health & Welfare form.

Andra Wilson testified in support of privatizing health care.

Jennifer Zielinski of Idaho Parents Unlimited testified in support of providing additional resources to assist parents with children with behavioral health disabilities.

Rev. Edwin Keener expressed his opinion that the State surplus should be used to better fund education in Idaho and spoke in support of universal health care and immigrants.

Brian Hoyt testified in support of repealing the faith healing exemption.

Alan Hansen testified in support of raising wages for caregivers of patients with disabilities.

David DeHaas testified in favor of eliminating the Department of Health & Welfare immunization exemption form.

Ahniah Selene-Summer testified in opposition to reducing Medicaid reimbursements.

Mary Nyland testified in favor of expanding Medicaid for the working poor and increasing reimbursement rates for treating developmental disabilities.

See Attachment 1 for a copy of all testimony provided to the Committee.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Heider** adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Senator Heider
Chair

Jeanne Jackson-Heim
Secretary