

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 03, 2017

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Kingsley, Redman

GUESTS: Daniel Chadwick, Idaho Assn of Counties; Kris Ellis, Susan Farber, Paige Haviland, Dr. Robert Colhan, and Deborah Katz, IPA; Ken McClure, IMA; Lyn McArthur, IPA & Health West; Kent Kunz, ISU; Alex Capple, Citizen

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

H 212: **Kris Ellis**, Idaho Psychological Association, presented **H 212**. This Legislation sets the gold standard for education and training for prescribing psychologists. It adds access to mental health professionals, especially in rural communities. Two years of full time didactic education at an accredited institution with a resulting master's degree in psychopharmacology is required. Also required are a two-year supervision period, collaboration with the patient's primary care provider, and an advisory council to guide the Board of Psychology in matters relating to prescribing psychologists.

Virginia Paige Haviland, President, Idaho Psychological Association, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, testified **in support** of **H 212**, which allows properly trained psychologists the ability to have prescribing authority. This eliminates long wait times for comprehensive care and psychiatric intervention. The Idaho State University (ISU) proposed brick and mortar program will also provide a potential site for the Navy's psychologist training program.

Lynn McArthur, Licensed Psychologist, Health West, Member, Idaho Psychological Association, testified **in support** of **H 212**. She described her small town and community health center environment, where one third of her patients are uninsured, there are no qualified mental health medication management referral choices, there are three-month waits for visits to psychiatrists, prescriptions are given by unqualified professionals, and local psychiatric units must divert new short-term care patients to Twin Falls or Boise. With prompt care from thoroughly trained prescribers able to consider psychotherapy and medication treatments, there would be a decline in jail, hospital, and suicide rates.

Answering questions, **Dr. McArthur** said psychiatrists are willing to see uninsured customers, if they have the \$300 per consultation paid up front. Referrals are often to mid-level providers, who have had little training in mental health. Although Medicaid has visit timeliness requirements, providers have noted the inability to keep those requirements due to the demand.

Alex Capple, Citizen, testified **in support** of **H 212**. He shared his personal experience, which began in kindergarten, the benefits of consistent counseling, and the side effects of poorly prescribed medications. His treatment team has provided hope and an ability to move forward. Having the option to discuss medication side effects beyond a medical appointment is important to provide a different and whole way of treatment success.

Ken McClure, Idaho Medical Association, Idaho Psychiatric Association, testified they are **neutral** to **H 212**. Although concerns still exist regarding the scope of practice, this is a suitable educational process to substantiate the privileging they are seeking to obtain, based on ISU providing an appropriate educational system. This Legislation provides accommodation for public health.

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

MOTION: **Rep. Perry** made a motion to send **H 212** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Responding to a question, **Kris Ellis** said this group is housed within the Board of Psychology and an expert advisory board will cover the current lack of prescribing psychologists on the Board. The certification cost is expected to cover any costs related to Rule making and the advisory panel.

Chairman Wood commented a great deal depends on ISU developing a two-year brick and mortar program certifying a master of psychopharmacology with the equivalent knowledge of a psychiatric nurse practitioner with prescriptive authority.

Answering a question, **Kris Ellis** stated several studies have shown therapy with medication management is the best practice to reduce the patient's time on medication.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Wood** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 212** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Hixon** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Perry** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 213: **Chairman Wood** returned **H 213** to the committee for consideration, which was held for time certain from the meeting of Wednesday, March 1, 2017.

Answering a question, **Treena Clark**, Program Manager, Division of Behavioral Health, said the family support partner and peer support certification process and standards already exist.

Dan Chadwick, Executive Director, Idaho Association of Counties (IAC), testified **in support** of **H 213**. Using the IAC district is consistent with the Behavioral Health Board appointment process to link the actual Board participants to their regions. It is also consistent with other statutes, provides consistency, and allows reporting to keep officials up to date.

Answering questions, **Mr. Chadwick**, said all counties belong to the IAC. They have to assure there is large and small county representation. The IAC creates the districts for the convenience of getting the officials together.

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

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Packer** made a motion to send **H 213** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Zollinger, Hanks, and Blanksma** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Kingsley** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 a.m.

Representative Wood
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary