

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 21, 2018

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Chew

GUESTS: Avalyn Hine and Jacob Francis, MYAC; Kim Kane and Elke Shaw-Tulloch, IDHW; Jeni Griffin, SPAN; Shannan Decker, ISPC; Heidi Freeney, West Ada Schools

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 12, 2018, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 546: **Rep. Jason Monks**, District 22, presenting **H 546**, introduced and turned the presentation over to **Avalyn Hine**, Mayor's Youth Advisory Council of Meridian. This legislation decreases organ donor eligibility to 15 years of age, with parental consent using an existing form. The lowered age allows more donor opportunities when teens apply for permits and first licenses.

Jacob Francis, Meridian Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, testified **in support of H 546**. His peers have requested the opportunity to make a difference, even after death, by giving of themselves for the betterment of others. This allows youth to show their sense of character, identity, and honor.

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

MOTION: **Rep. Wagoner** made a motion to send **H 546** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Monks** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Dr. Linda Hatzenbuehler, Chairman, Idaho Council on Suicide Prevention, presented the 2017 state report. Suicide has a preventable negative impact on communities, individuals, and families.

A variety of public awareness campaigns and outreach were launched with anti-stigma and culturally specific focuses. Educational efforts include veterans, tribes, juvenile corrections, schools, and audience-specific training. New access to care programs have begun. Survivor support programs include remembrance walks, loss survivor support groups, meetings, and survivor packets.

The Idaho Suicide Prevention Hotline (ISPH) experienced the greatest contact increase since its inception. Chat services and infrastructure upgrades have expanded their responder stations from three to six. A television media campaign was also launched.

The Idaho Suicide Prevention Plan will receive a full rewrite in 2018.

Answering a question, **Dr. Hatzenbuehler** said the Suicide Prevention Plan is a coordinating guide for all prevention activity. Suicide rates are impacted by economic downturns, contagion, and lack of services. Every region needs to be involved in programs to make a difference.

Kim Kane, Program Director, Suicide Prevention Program (SPP), Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), presented an overview of the program and its activities. Funding has provided a development awareness state campaign, hotline subsistence, and upstream programs for youth healthy coping mechanisms. The SPP provides trainings, consultations, and materials. Future plans will increase efforts with statewide stakeholders and partners to squelch the problem in an overall and comprehensive way.

Invited to answer a question, **John Reusser**, Director, Idaho Suicide Prevention Hotline, said the requested 2018 budget increase will move staff from the crisis phone room to support the supervisory team. A \$129,000 budgetary shortage is expected to be filled through grant funding and the private sector.

Responding to questions, **Ms. Kane** explained sixty-two schools have the healthy coping mechanism program in place. Statewide training involves adult implementation time commitments. The public service announcements are aired at a variety of times, counties, stations, and programs through a marketing company. Collaborative stakeholder efforts include quarterly meetings, with task forces working on areas needing more attention.

Due to time constraints, the presentation by **Shannon Decker**, Executive Director, Idaho Suicide Prevention Coalition, will be rescheduled.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Representative Wood
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary