

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 15, 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) Blanksma, Vander Woude

GUESTS: Elizabeth Criner and Linda Swanstrom, ISDA; Tiffany Kinzler, DHW-Medicaid

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Redman** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2018, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Tyrel Stevenson, Legislative Director, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, presented information on Dental Health Aide Therapy (DHAT). Marimn Health, the tribe's medical clinic, provides a variety of services for native and non-native patients, in partnership with the City of Plummer.

The Community Health Aid Program (CHAP) began in Alaska, trains persons in rural communities, and allies them with supervising dentists, doctors, and mental health professionals to provide services. The CHAP dental therapist has a scope of practice limit of fifty procedures. The community participates in CHAP recipient selection, funding, and support. This is a federal program with oversight by the Community Health Aid Certification Board.

The 2010 Indian Health Care Improvement Reauthorization Act, an ACA rider, stipulates the tribes outside of Alaska must have state authorization to take advantage of the DHAT Program and receive Medicaid and Indian Health reimbursement.

One Coeur d'Alene tribal member is currently in the Alaska training program and expected to graduate in one year. Answering a question, **Mr. Stevenson** said the training is a 24-month condensed program and does not require a bachelors degree.

Christina Peters, NW Portland Area Indian Health Board, further answered, any student who has not met the initial program entry requirements is offered a summer catch-up program.

Tammy Emerson, Idaho Speech and Hearing Association (ISHA), presented information on the Adult Audiology Project. In 2011, **H 260** discontinued Medicaid funding for adult audiology rehabilitative services. Future legislation is being developed to return this benefit.

April Ward, Audiologist, Director, Elks Hearing and Balance Center, ISHA, further discussed the reinstatement and the impact on patients no longer able to afford continuing care.

The long-term Medicaid, economic, and health impact of untreated hearing loss includes dementia, brain volume changes, cognitive decline, falls, depression, social isolation, and lower incomes. These are quality of life issues.

Incomes are affected when behaviors are misinterpreted and an individual is unable to advance or loses a job. With treatment, the resulting increased income is estimated to more than cover the Medicaid benefit cost.

Ms. Emerson said a child receiving implants at six months of age never needs speech therapy. When the children age out and are then without services, their quality of life changes dramatically.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Representative Wood
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary