

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 28, 2019

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Martin, Vice Chairman Souza, Senators Heider, Harris, Burtenshaw, Bayer, Jordan, and Nelson

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Lee

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 Martin** called the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT HEARING: **Chairman Martin** welcomed Dr. Linda Hatzenbuehler, under consideration for reappointment to the State Board of Health and Welfare (Board). **Dr. Hatzenbuehler** shared that she retired as a professor from Idaho State University in 2016 after forty years as a State of Idaho employee. Her first position was with the Department of Health and Welfare (Department). She is indebted to the Department for their assistance in helping her to continue the pursuit of her doctoral study. She left Kent State University after the student shooting in 1970 and was able to complete her degree in Idaho with their support. Since her retirement, she has become a full-time volunteer for the State of Idaho. She is still a licensed, practicing psychologist focusing on forensic evaluations for the courts. She is committed to improving services to people so that they become productive citizens.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Martin** thanked Dr. Hatzenbuehler personally for her work on suicide prevention and her willingness to continue to serve on the Board.

Senator Heider added that he has served with her on the Board and spoke highly of her service.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT HEARING: **Chairman Martin** welcomed Dr. Timothy Rarick, under consideration for appointment to the State Board of Health and Welfare (Board). **Dr. Rarick** stated that he is a Utah native who attended the University of Utah and obtained a bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies before completing a master's degree and doctorate from Kansas State University in Marriage, Family, and Human Development. He taught there for four years before taking a position eight years ago as a professor at Brigham Young University Idaho in the Department of Home and Family. His focus is on parenting, child and family advocacy, and child development. He and his family have come to enjoy Idaho. He also works with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to empower and educate parents on how to talk to their children about sex, intimacy, and safety. He has spoken on several occasions before the United Nations, working with delegates on a number of societal issues including gender equality, empowerment, poverty, and sustainable development. **Dr. Rarick** believes family capital is the solution to many of these problems. He works closely with Native American tribes to focus on the critical role of parenthood and reported tremendous improvement in addiction rates, stating that the opposite of addiction is connection.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Harris** thanked Dr. Rarick and asked what goals he hopes to accomplish while serving on the Board. **Dr. Rarick** offered that he hopes to focus on family impact and mental health: suicide prevention, addiction, and foster care. He went on to state that the family is the most humane, economical, and powerful system for building competence and character.

Vice Chairman Souza expressed appreciation for Dr. Rarick's statement that the opposite of addition is connection and asked him to expound on that concept. **Dr. Rarick** explained that for years, the opposite was considered sobriety. Research now supports that a lack of connection is at issue. We are wired to connect, and more and more we are disconnecting wirelessly. There is a rise in anxiety and depression in adolescents linked to screen addiction. There are three critical connections: to Self, to family, and to a higher power. In their absence, people will try to fill the void. **Vice Chairman Souza** asked Dr. Rarick for his opinion on whether the public school system fosters family strength. **Dr. Rarick** suggested that parents rely too much on the schools and in some cases schools are replacing families. **Dr. Rarick** believes there is a role for schools in teaching human relationships and cited sex education as a good example. The best partnership is when parents and schools work together, but many families are too busy or are disconnected because of family dysfunction. **Vice Chairman Souza** expressed her opinion that the public school system has taken an adversarial position and shows disrespect for the role of parents.

Senator Jordan wondered in what areas Dr. Rarick felt he might need mentoring or further exploration. **Dr. Rarick** replied that to be useful in this role he will need to bridge social science and public policy. **Senator Jordan** asked how we might support those who do not have family support systems. **Dr. Rarick** stated that the local entity knows the local culture and needs and recommended empowering those local entities with funding and resources; to employ cultural strengths so that individuals without families at least feel love and support from their community. The preventive piece is to help families not break down; the reparative piece is to help them understand that there is support and a way forward.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT HEARING: **Chairman Martin** welcomed Darrell Kerby, under consideration for reappointment to the State Board of Health and Welfare (Board).

DISCUSSION: **Darrell Kerby** shared that he was born and raised in Bonners Ferry, Idaho, where he still lives. He owns an insurance company and real estate company, and has been an elected official his whole adult life. He served on the city council for 20 years, as mayor for eight years, and served in this esteemed body as a substitute for Senator Keough. He founded a community health center that serves 20,000 residents in Bonner and Boundary Counties. He has served on the Board for a number of years and is the current chairman. Mr. Kerby graduated from the University of Idaho with a bachelor's degree in education and from Gonzaga University with a master's degree in education.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Chairman Martin turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Souza.

DISCUSSION: **Vice Chairman Souza** wondered what Mr. Kerby finds to be the greatest challenge for the Board and if he anticipates a change under the new director for the Department of Health and Welfare (Department). **Mr. Kerby** reported that the new director has already brought insight, a different viewpoint, and a wealth of knowledge. Governor Little has also laid out new rules that affect the Department. Mr. Kerby is amazed at the depth and breadth of responsibility that the Department oversees. **Vice Chairman Souza** asked what he sees as the role of the Board. **Mr. Kerby** referenced the empowerment clause that places some new legislation under the supervision of the Department director and other legislation under the purview of the Board. The majority of Board action pertains to those areas where it is the responsible party for approving changes to rules and regulations.

Senator Heider shared that as Board Chairman, Mr. Kerby introduced a policy change that allowed the public to testify before the Board. Senator Heider found it to be very useful and thanked him for his good leadership.

Senator Jordan wondered how we might better partner with city and county entities. **Mr. Kerby** responded that a great concern at the local level is how law enforcement interfaces with people in mental health crises, and also the lack of adequate resources in rural communities.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT HEARING: **Chairman Martin** welcomed Jim Giuffré under consideration for reappointment to the State Board of Health and Welfare. Mr. Giuffré informed the Committee that he has been a resident of Idaho for forty years and has three children and three grandchildren. He obtained a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of California Santa Cruz and a master's in public health from the University of California at Berkeley. He was a health educator in Twin Falls, and later a district health director in the Lewiston area before becoming the Central District Health Director. He is passionate about providing access to healthcare for Idahoans. He recently retired from Healthwise where he served as Chief Operating Officer, an organization based here in Boise that provides evidence-based medicine in consumer-plain language distributed worldwide. The Healthwise philosophy is to help people make better health decisions in partnership with their providers. Since retiring, he serves on several boards, including the St. Luke's Health Partner's Board that is changing from fee-for-service to value-based care. He also serves on national non-profit boards that provide services throughout the world to under-served countries and underprivileged populations. He is very impressed with the quality of the staff at the Department of Health and Welfare (Department), their understanding of the mission, and their dedication to improving the health of Idahoans.

DISCUSSION: **Vice Chairman Souza** shared that she toured the St. Luke's Telehealth program, stating it was the future of healthcare and that she found it fascinating.

Senator Harris asked Mr. Giuffré what he felt will be the biggest change in healthcare in the coming years. **Mr. Giuffré** stated the transition to value-based care that only pays for outcomes, a process he anticipates is ten years out, but that will significantly improve healthcare delivery.

Senator Heider commended Mr. Giuffré for his work in the development of the Idaho Healthcare Exchange.

Senator Nelson inquired about any opportunities in the Department to deploy technology more effectively. **Mr. Giuffré** reported that the amount of technology developed as part of the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) is phenomenal in its ability to gather and share data to help identify populations with the greatest

need. Electronic health records is another opportunity; to derive data on social determinants of health like housing and nutrition to provide the best pathway to better health.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Vice Chairman Souza** adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Senator Martin
Chair

Margaret Major
Secretary