

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 30, 2020

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

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

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Jordan

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 2:59 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Bayer** moved to approve the Minutes of January 7, 2020. **Vice Chair Souza** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Senator Harris moved to approve the Minutes of January 13, 2020. **Senator Heider** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Chairman Martin announced the Minutes of January 14, 2020, would be approved at the next meeting, when Senator Jordan would be present.

PRESENTATION: **Roger Sherman**, Executive Director, Idaho Children's Trust Fund, presented a report about the Idaho Resilience Project. The information was a collective effort of Kaiser Permanente and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The most commonly reported adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) in Idaho are poverty, divorce and broken homes, substance use, and mental illness. Only four states have a higher prevalence than Idaho of children with three or more ACEs. The ACE study provides a paradigm shift from what's wrong with a child to what happened to a child. The economic impact is significant: \$124 billion worth of lost work days. Nearly 65 percent of children are impacted by a learning disability, 54.6 percent are diagnosed with ADHD, and just over 47 percent have to repeat a grade. The Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections reports the average ACE score is 4.2 among those in its care; of those, 62 percent reported over 4 ACEs, and 16 percent reported over 7 ACEs.

Jeff Myers, MD, Idaho Youth Ranch; **Jack Varin**, retired judge; and, **Jane Mutchie**, representing St. Luke's, presented a short film on toxic stress. Abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction are considered ACEs. They impact behavior and health, as well as our ability to think and reason in adulthood. See attachment 1.

DISCUSSION: **Vice Chair Souza** asked if girls are considered more vulnerable than boys in these situations. **Mr. Varin** explained that boys are just as vulnerable as girls, as far as things that happen to them.

In response to questions from Senator Heider, **Mr. Sherman** explained the population of Idaho children affected by ACEs and noted efforts to disseminate that information to the public.

Vice Chair Souza and **Ms. Mutchie** discussed the impacts of cortisol on children and ways to mitigate its negative effects.

PRESENTATION: **Kathryn Mooney**, Program Director of the Catastrophic (CAT) Health Care Cost Program, presented the annual report to the Committee. See attachment 2. She explained that the program is based on emergencies. She described the process and timelines involved in handling cases. Since January 1, 2020, the CAT Program has not seen a cut-off due to Medicaid expansion; however, the hospitals are seeing a slowdown.

DISCUSSION: In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Mooney** discussed the timing of applications to the CAT Program and a case involving a disability determination. **Ms. Mooney** continued her presentation, explaining reimbursement. Payments are received from patients and liens are filed against real and personal property; but, patients can settle if they sell a house, for example. She explained that there are no payoff arrangements and no set amounts; they receive whatever the patient can afford to pay. Administering the program is expensive, and counties spend millions due to the appeal processes. The 2019 cost per case was \$23,541. **Ms. Mooney** stated that the CAT Program should begin to see a slowdown in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year.

Ms. Mooney was asked to provide scenarios where the CAT Program will be needed even with Medicaid expansion. She explained that applications are received from people who are above the Medicaid eligibility limit.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Martin** adjourned the meeting at 4:21 p.m.

Senator Martin
Chair

Margo Miller
Secretary