

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 04, 2021

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Wood, Vice Chairman Vander Woude, Representatives Gibbs, Blanksma, Kingsley, Christensen, Lickley, Erickson, Ferch, Mitchell, Chew, Rubel, Davis

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

GUESTS: Lee Flinn, Id. Suicide Prevention Hotline; Stewart Wilder, ID Suicide Prev. Action Collective

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Lickley** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2021, meeting.
Motion carried by voice vote.

HCR 11: **Rep. Laurie Lickley**, District 25, presented **HCR 11**. With a lack of Idaho crisis care and providers, the 988 national mental health (MH) emergency hotline will be a great asset when it becomes operational in July, 2022, and replaces the current national 800 number. In June the working groups and advisory councils will make a formal implementation recommendation to the Governor. This easier access MH crisis lifeline will help both citizens and law enforcement.

Stewart Wilder, Co-Chairman, Idaho Suicide Prevention Action Collective (ISPAC), further presented **HCR 11**, which recognizes 988 as the three-digit number for suicide prevention and MH crisis needs. It also acknowledges financial support is required prior to the roll-out. The ISPAC is working with national organizations to effectively and efficiently implement this service in Idaho. It is crucial to have both the technology and funding in place when 988 becomes live across the country in 2022.

Lee Flinn, Director, Idaho Suicide Prevention Hotline (ISPH), completed the presentation of **HCR 11**. ISPH services are free, confidential, and available to anyone. They work with the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), the Division of Behavioral Health, and the Division of MH to find services for their callers. The process helps callers de-escalate, create safety plans, find solutions, and build their resiliency to stay safe. This also decreases hospital emergency room visits and the use of first responders or law enforcement.

The new 988 number will replace the lengthy National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800 number while still using the Lifeline Network Crisis Centers. The current area code routing method is replaced by geographic location routing to call centers. Persons calling for crisis services are Idaho families, friends, and neighbors. ISPH callers range from eight years of age to 93 years of age.

Responding to questions, **Ms. Flinn** stated a national marketing campaign will be used to raise awareness of the 988 number. Hotline calls remain anonymous and confidential.

MOTION: **Rep. Gibbs** made a motion to send **HCR 11** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Committee members suggested the discussions include directing individuals when nearby services are in other states, addressing the rise in successful suicides, and creating a simple way to transfer persons calling the old numbers to the new 988 number.

For the record, no one indicated their desire to testify in person or remotely.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Chairman Wood called for a vote on the motion to send **HCR 11** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Lickley** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 234:

Chairman Wood returned **H 234** to the committee, which was not heard during the March 1, 2021, meeting due to the presenter's absence.

Rep. Jason Monks, District 22, presented **H 234** to align city ordinance enactment with the Idaho Constitution. It also provides a quarantine definition, as appears in other code sections. The five-mile boundary radius, which was removed in **H 74**, has been stricken. Responding to questions, Rep. Monks said this legislation would not be impacted by any amendments to **H 74**.

MOTION:

Rep. Mitchell made a motion to send **H 234** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

For the record, no one indicated their desire to testify in person or remotely.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Chairman Wood called for a vote on the motion to send **H 234** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Monks** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Representative Wood
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary