

MINUTES
JOINT FINANCE-APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 01, 2022

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room C310

MEMBERS PRESENT: Senators Co-chairman Agenbroad, Crabtree, VanOrden (Bair), Grow, Woodward, Riggs, Cook, Ward-Engelking, and Nye

Representatives Co-chairman Youngblood, Troy, Horman, Amador, Syme, Bundy, Cindy Carlson (Giddings), Nate, Green, and Nash

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Senator Lent

CONVENED: **Co-Chairman Agenbroad** called the meeting of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (Committee) to order at 8:02 a.m.

AGENCY PRESENTATION: **IDAHO COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND VICTIM ASSISTANCE (DV Council), Heather A. Cunningham, Executive Director; Jill Randolph, Legislative Services Office (LSO) Senior Budget and Policy Analyst**

Ms. Randolph presented an organizational chart for the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) (see attachment 1) and explained that the DV Council was part of the Independent Councils' program through the DHW. She explained the DV Council's focus is providing assistance for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or child abuse, and provides grants to nonprofit or system based agencies, include funding for 20 shelters throughout the state. She explained the DV Council is primarily funded with federal funds in addition to state-imposed fees of \$15 for each marriage license and \$20 for each divorce action. Averaged over the last four years, federal funds make up 95 percent of its budget, dedicated funds are 5 percent, and the General Fund is 0 percent (see attachment 2). **Ms. Randolph** further discussed the details of the DV Council's appropriations and expenditures from fiscal year (FY) 2018 forward.

Ms. Cunningham outlined that the DV Council is an independent agency formed by the Legislature in 1982, and its purpose, mission, and vision (see attachment 3). She noted the 47 programs funded through the DV Council, and the increasing demand for services. She discussed its funding sources and the forecasted large federal funding gaps which will force the DV Council to discontinue several programs, particularly in rural regions. **Ms. Cunningham** summarized the strain the pandemic has caused, providing data and statistics. She reviewed the different funds they receive, detailing the volatility issues with their primary source of funding, The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Fund. **Ms. Cunningham** presented their FY 22 supplemental and FY 23 line item budget requests, and appeal for American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) one time monies to fund the VOCA gap.

**AGENCY
PRESENTATION:**

IDAHO COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, Christine Pisani, Executive Director; Jill Randolph, LSO Senior Budget and Policy Analyst

Ms. Randolph explained this council was established to be a central point for cooperation and coordination between private and public sectors ensuring those with developmental disabilities receive the services and assistance necessary to achieve maximum independence, productivity, and integration into the community. She discussed the actual expenditures and appropriations for the last four FYs, as well as the funding sources (see attachment 4).

Ms. Pisani discussed the Council's budget has no audit findings or line item budget requests and is a maintenance budget with the required adjustment based upon the state's directive. She discussed the Council was authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act in 1971, and was established in Idaho Code in 1978, and brings together individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family members, alongside service providers, policy makers, and state agency representatives, to work toward best practice in service systems and programs. **Ms. Pisani** elaborated on their challenges and successes, especially the inability to find adequate staffing.

**AGENCY
PRESENTATION:**

DHW - INDIRECT SUPPORT SERVICES, Dave Jeppesen, Director, DHW; Jill Randolph, LSO Senior Budget and Policy Analyst

Ms. Randolph discussed this division, under DHW's "other programs", which provides support functions for the entire DHW with 288.6 Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTP). She reviewed its total appropriations and expenditures for the last four years, along with FY 2022 original appropriation, of which 84 percent is funded by the General Fund, and 16 percent from dedicated funds (see attachment 5).

Mr. Jeppesen presented that DHW has two one time supplemental requests for indirect services to improve the experience for customers who access the background check system, and for ongoing migration into multiple cloud services to improve safety and efficiency.

DISCUSSION:

In response to questions by the Committee, **Mr. Jeppesen** and **Brad McDonald**, Management Services Division Administrator for DHW, reviewed the integrity of the internal programs, the audit team, welfare fraud, its semi-annual report, and return on investment. **Andrew Masters**, Information and Technology Services Administrator, discussed the department's cloud needs.

**AGENCY
PRESENTATION:**

DHW - LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION, Dave Jeppesen, Director, DHW; Jill Randolph, LSO Senior Budget and Policy Analyst

Ms. Randolph reviewed that this division surveys, inspects, and certifies health care facilities in Idaho that require either state or federal licensure or certification, investigate complaints, and conducts on-site surveys. It oversees 19 different types of health care facilities and agencies, including long term care, fire safety, and construction, certified family homes, developmental disabilities agencies, and the Children's Agency Licensing Program which includes foster care agencies, adoption centers and substance use disorder treatment facilities. She reviewed the four year average total appropriation and reviewed the appropriations versus actual expenditures (see attachment 6).

Mr. Jeppesen stated this division ensures that Idaho health care facilities and agencies follow applicable federal and state statutes and there were no line items or specific budget requests for this division. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and staffing challenges, in 2021 it completed 4,212 surveys and complaint investigations, as well as licensed 141 new health care entities.

Mr. Jeppesen emphasized that surveyors worked closely with long term care facilities to ensure they were implementing the latest federal guidance related to COVID-19, were able to obtain PPE testing supplies, and had access to vaccines. He also discussed highlights from its biannual report on facility licensing, staff workload, and case load issues.

**AGENCY
PRESENTATION:**

DHW - SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES (SAS), MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, AND PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALIZATIONS, Dave Jeppesen, Director, DHW; Jill Randolph, LSO Senior Budget and Policy Analyst

Ms. Randolph explained that the Behavioral Health Bill encompasses three divisions, SAS, Mental Health Services, and Psychiatric Hospitalization, therefore the three divisions would be reviewed together.

The SAS provides treatment services for children and adults which includes residential and outpatient substance use disorder treatment, recovery coaching, support for substance use disorder providers, and tobacco retail inspections. **Ms. Randolph** summarized SAS's total appropriation versus actual expenditures for the last four years, including the FY 2022 original appropriation, and the increase for FY 2021 relating to the pandemic (see attachment 7). She outlined its funding sources.

Ms. Randolph discussed the two programs within this Mental Health Services, Adult Mental Health and Children's Mental Health services and their total appropriation and expenditures since FY 2018 (see attachment 8). These services provide for adult citizens who experience serious and persistent mental illness, and care for children with serious emotional disturbances.

Ms. Randolph reported Psychiatric Hospitalization is organized into four budgeted programs: community hospitalization, State Hospital South, State Hospital North, and State Hospital West. She summarized each program's responsibilities and discussed the four year average total expenditures and appropriations (see attachment 9).

Mr. Jeppesen discussed that through these divisions Idaho has a vision for adults, children, youth, and their families who live with mental illness and addiction, to receive behavioral health care services when needed; providing a better quality of life, reduced risk of involvement with the criminal justice system, and make communities healthier, safer places to live. He detailed The Idaho Behavioral Health Council (IBHC) which has a strategic action plan, resulting from a statewide collaborative effort, which includes a current inventory of resources, a plan to leverage state and national best practices, and a focus on a consumer driven approach to design a cost efficient, coordinated system that more effectively maximizes the resources to care for Idahoans with behavioral health conditions. **Mr. Jeppesen** summarized various programs in the community which support the IBHC's strategic plan (see attachment 10).

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Jeppesen and **Ross Edmunds**, Behavioral Health Division Administrator for DHW, answered various questions from the Committee relating to specific budget line items, supplemental requests, and the Governor's recommendations. **Alex J. Adams**, Administrator of the Division of Financial Management, also answered questions regarding the use of ARPA funds.

**AGENCY
PRESENTATION:**

**DHW - PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES, Dave Jeppesen, Director, DHW;
Jill Randolph, LSO Senior Budget and Policy Analyst**

Ms. Randolph explained there are five programs within this division, Physical Health Services, Emergency Medical Services, Laboratory Services, Suicide Prevention and Awareness, and Health Care Policy Initiatives, and provided details of what each program does. She reviewed the appropriation versus expenditures, average expenditures, and funding sources for each program (see attachment 11). **Ms. Randolph** also explained the Governor’s authority to increase the ability of the agency to spend federal funds, and with the agency receiving COVID Relief Act Funds, some appropriations would have been increased in that process and thereby spending exceeded appropriation authority.

Mr. Jeppesen discussed the Public Health Services has offered guidance, recommendations, and support to Idaho’s communities as they worked to lessen the severity of the pandemic, using COVID–19 emergency funds for internal improvements to better serve the public. He reviewed that significantly more funding was sent to Idaho's public and private health care sectors to assist them with responding to the demands, new needs, and increased workloads, with nearly all of the budget requests being one time investments for COVID–19 response efforts and to develop and implement a public health infrastructure for the future. **Mr. Jeppesen** stressed the request that COVID–19 federal spending authority continue. He then explained the line items and projects which will utilize the funding if appropriated (see attachment 10).

DISCUSSION:

In response to Committee questions, **Mr. Jeppesen** and **Elke Shaw-Tulloch**, Public Health Division Administrator for DHW, provided detailed information about specific line items and what projects and programs various funds were spent on, emphasizing successes and needs of the division.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business before the Committee, **Co-Chairman Agenbroad** adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Senator Agenbroad
Chair

Erin Miller
Secretary