

MINUTES  
**HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Thursday, March 03, 2022
- TIME:** 8:30 A.M.
- PLACE:** Room EW20
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Wood, Vice Chairman Vander Woude, Representatives Gibbs, Blanksma, Kingsley, Christensen, Lickley, Erickson, Ferch, Mitchell, Chew, Rubel, Burns
- ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Blanksma
- GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of the session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.
- Chairman Wood** called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Erickson** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2022, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- S 1256:** **Fernando Castro**, Supervisor, Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) Criminal History Unit, presented **S 1256**. This statute change removes text requiring an applicant to have their background check application notarized and allows an electronic signature. This eliminates regulatory burdens on the applicants and their employers, as well as out-of-pocket background check costs for the applicant's notary services. This will improve the application adjudication process. Other minor grammatical and punctuation changes do not affect the statutory intent of the law.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Burns** made a motion to send **S 1256** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Lickley** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- S 1258:** **Ross Edmunds**, Administrator, DHW Division of Behavioral Health, presented **S 1258**. This legislation includes State Hospital West (SHW) under hospitals referenced in Title 36 to clarify fishing license access. It also aligns the operation and management responsibility of the state hospitals under the DHW authority. It eliminates out-of-date descriptions as State Charitable Institutions and the Board of Health and Welfare's operational role. It ensures the student loan payment program is available to SHW physicians, psychologists, and clinical specialists in line with State Hospitals North and South.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Gibbs** made a motion to send **S 1258** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.
- Answering a question regarding the use of "health and welfare," "department of public health," and "board of health," **Mr. Edmunds** agreed there appears to be a terminology oversight which needs to be corrected. He also clarified there are four care institutions, three of which are psychiatric hospitals. SHW, although on the SWITC campus, is a separate hospital. SHW is serving between eight and fourteen kids at any time, has no wait list, and is expecting accreditation.
- VOTE ON  
MOTION:** **Chairman Wood** called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1258** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Erickson** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**S 1257:** **Cameron Gilliland**, Administrator, DHW Division of Family and Community Services, presented **S 1257** to eliminate the description of the Southwest Idaho Treatment Center (SWITC) as a licensed Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) for persons with Intellectual Disabilities. The ICF designation is a poor fit for many of the current SWITC clients because it was not designed to serve individuals with significant behaviors and mental illness. The current statute prevents implementation of a new, non-ICF, model of care which has been developed and will be implemented.

Responding to committee questions, **Mr. Gilliland** said the facility is licensed for 18 clients and currently has 12 clients. These individuals have mental and behavioral health issues which cannot be served anywhere else. Without this safety net, these individuals would have to go to other places outside of Idaho. Individuals who can be safely helped in their community are directed elsewhere.

There are 115 staff who serve the 12 to 18 clients. This staff number includes clinicians, a dietitian, administration, and maintenance. Staff has been reduced and direct contact is limited due to the behaviors and issues presented by the clients.

Children, twelve years of age or older, who have no other place to go, are admitted occasionally. They are not mixed with adults and special effort is taken to move them out as quickly as possible.

**Richelle Tierney**, Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD), testified **in support** of **S 1257**. The DHW strategic plan to address areas of improvement includes the Council's areas of concerns. Removing the ICF description is an important step to transition to a short-term stabilization and treatment center for individuals with intellectual and DD who are in crisis. Individuals also need a responsive community based service system. The Council is ready to work with the DHW to address additional needs.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Lickley** made a motion to send **S 1257** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Burns, Kingsley, Ferch,** and **Christensen** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Erickson** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:18 a.m.

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Representative Wood  
Chair

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Irene Moore  
Secretary