

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 23, 2023

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: WW02

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman Zuiderveld, Senators Lee, Harris, Bjerke, Wintrow, and Taylor

Chairman Vander Woude, Vice Chairman Erickson, Representatives Blanksma, Kingsley, Mitchell, Dixon (24), Gallagher, Healey, Redman, Wheeler, Chew, Rubel, and Roberts

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

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 Vander Woude** called the Joint meeting of the Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) House and Senate at 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Vander Woude explained Senate Bill 1204 requires the House and Senate Health and Welfare Committees (Committees) to report back to the ledger, to review the Medicaid Expansion and send a letter back.

PRESENTATION: **Medicaid Expansion Update Dave Jeppesen**, Director of Health and Welfare, stated this presentation from Juliet Charron was to share information with the Committees.

Juliet Charron, Division Administrator for Medicaid, stated she was there to provide information to support their review, pursuant to Idaho Code 56-267. (see attachment 1)

DISCUSSION: **Representative Mitchell** asked if there were any data available to show the impact of not having the Medicaid Expansion in place. **Ms. Charron** replied she would follow up with that information. **Representative Mitchell** asked about the time line of federal funds that came into the State to help offset costs. **Ms. Charron** replied at this time, the ninety percent federal match would continue.

Representative Redman inquired about of those currently under covered under Expansion would be determined by April 1st. **Ms. Charron** replied they would not know until they started the redetermination work. **Representative Redman** asked how many of that percentage would be determined ineligible and would it be about six months before those individuals were actually unenrolled. **Ms. Charron** replied at this time, they do not have a projection. **Representative Redman** asked if the unenrollment would be retroactive, or if it would be effective on the date found ineligible. **Ms. Charron** replied it would be from the date the individual was found ineligible going forward.

Senator Wintrow inquired about decreasing the amount of general funds that are put toward the program **Ms. Charron** replied there was a decrease in the amount of State General Funds needed.

Representative Blanksma asked about efforts the Department was making to recover funds of individuals rolling off. **Ms. Charron** replied due to the continuous enrollment provision of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, those funds cannot be clawed back. **Representative Blanksma** asked if effort would be made to recover of those costs. **Ms. Charron** replied those funds cannot be recovered, as continuous enrollment was mandated through the Public Health Emergency.

Representative Blanksma requested an update on the waivers included in the 2022 Legislation. **Ms. Charron** explained the 1115 waiver was approved and implemented, and there would be no action taken on the remaining waivers.

Representative Healey inquired about any difficulty getting Medicaid patients access to preventive care. **Ms. Charron** replied she believed there was a statute that required Medicaid participants be connected with a primary care provider upon enrollment. **Representative Healey** inquired about gap analysis when individuals went to the ER, and if they were offered preventative care appointments with their primary care providers. **Ms. Charron** replied she does not have an analysis available.

Representative Rubel asked about impact analysis on the stability of rural hospitals if the Medicaid Expansion were to terminate. **Ms. Charron** replied they had not completed that analysis.

Representative Gallagher inquired how much of the \$527 million was spent on the Medicaid Expansion population in the 2022 fiscal year. **Ms. Charron** stated she would get an exact breakdown. **Representative Gallagher** asked what steps are in the prevention of diabetes care. **Ms. Charron** replied they want an individual to have a physician to connect with for those preventative screenings to get them on any necessary medications for diabetes or make lifestyle changes to avoid them needing medication in the future.

Senator Bjerke asked about optional programs under Medicaid Expansion that could be removed to control costs, and what those thresholds were for getting on the exchanges versus Medicaid or the Expanded Medicaid. **Ms. Charron** replied the cost containment review from the Division of Financial Management (DFM) had a number of recommendations. **Senator Bjerke** asked what determined who would be on the exchanges versus Medicaid, and what was the benefit of those two options. **Ms. Charron** replied a tax credit was given to reduce the cost of purchasing a plan through the state based marketplace.

Representative Wheeler asked what percentage of primary care providers are medical professionals. **Ms. Charron** replied she would follow up with a breakdown of provider types. **Representative Wheeler** asked what the biggest challenge was in connecting patients to primary care providers, and if telehealth played a role. **Ms. Charron** replied that Medicaid offered non-emergency medical transportation to get to a provider visit, and telehealth does support access to services and has been a great commodity to used in more rural areas.

Representative Erikson asked about the correlation between us and other states on the number of people that are disabled and enrolled in Medicaid versus the non-disabled. **Ms. Charron** stated in comparison to Utah's Medicaid population, she believed they have around 130,000 expansion participants and their budget was just over a billion.

Senator Zuiderveld inquired about the amount of money recovered by Medicaid through home liens, and if transition hormone therapy or gender reassignment surgeries were available under the Medicaid program. **Ms. Charron** stated she would follow up with that information.

Representative Redman asked if the consultant studies from DFM could be shared with both Committees. **Ms. Charron** replied DFM would like to give a presentation to both committees within the next two weeks. **Representative Redman** asked how Idaho Medicaid benefits work in comparison to other states. **Ms. Charron** replied every state is a bit different in terms of what they provide. One expanded benefit Idaho had was adult dental, one of the recommendations in the DFM cost containment report.

Representative Healey inquired about access to dental care, and where the cost breakdown would be included in primary care. **Ms. Charron** stated she would get back to him on the exact spent on dental, as it was outside of primary care.

Representative Mitchell asked what was projected for this program and how much that has changed comparatively on a year to year basis. **Ms. Charron** stated she would follow up with those exact numbers.

Senator Bjerke asked if trips to the ER had been lessened in a positive way, and was that effect detrimental with doctors in deciding to keep individuals who left their traditional insurance and are now under Expanded. **Ms. Charron** replied she does not have information before the Medicaid Expansion to distinguish what was seen over time.

Representative Gallagher asked what Medicare dollars were used for advertising of Medicaid Programs. **Ms. Charron** replied no, other than general information on the Department's website. **Representative Gallagher** asked if there were preventative measures for overall health on the website. **Ms. Charron** replied that information was offered for participants or potential participants on their website about prevention and healthy lifestyle.

Representative Erickson asked if the \$10 million difference in cost savings included bad debts, Indigent Care Service and others that were taken away as a result. **Ms. Charron** stated it did not include the exact impacts to hospitals, but did include funds if we were to re-establish the Catastrophic Fund and the Indigent Fund.

Chairman Vander Woude asked when redetermining individuals for Medicaid Expanded coverage, and the individual does not respond, how long before they were removed from Medicaid Expansion, and if they do not respond at all, what is that time frame for removal, and are there federal regulations on that. **Mr. Shane Leach**, Department of health and Welfare, stated beginning February 1, 2022, notices were sent out. Individuals had 60 days to respond. If no response, it will close on the effective date after 60 days.

Chairman Vander Woude asked for clarification, if that individual would be removed on April 1, 2022 if they did not respond. **Mr. Leach** replied that was correct. **Chairman Vander Woude** asked if a certain percentage of notices were sent in the beginning of February. **Mr. Leach** explained notices were divided up over six different groups, based on staff capacity, as the first group would be about 30,000 individuals who were sent notices.

Chairman Vander Woude asked why the dollar amount was still over one billion dollars in the SFY 24 request if 60,000 individuals were to become unenrolled from the Medicaid Expansion Program. (see attachment 1). **Ms. Charron** explained in the SFY 24 request, there was a reduction in the General Fund, but an increase in the federal and dedicated fund. The federal and dedicated fund are supporting the upper payment limit to hospitals. The supplemental payment to hospitals was the difference between what Medicaid paid and what Medicare would have paid.

Senator Lee asked if any progress has been made in our ability to recapture Medicaid funds from that State of Oregon. **Ms. Charron** stated they would follow up with that this week.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Vander Woude** adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

Senator VanOrden
Chair

Michelle Tierney
Secretary