

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 24, 2023

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

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

MOTION: **Rep. Dixon (24)** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2023, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS: 30005: **Rep. Marco Erickson**, District 33, presented **RS 30005**. This proposed legislation addresses access to records for insurance disability documentation. Medicaid is added as an insurance. Additional changes clarify parental access to treatment plan information.

MOTION: **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to introduce **RS 30005**. **Motion carried by voice vote. Chairman Vander Woude** and **Rep. Gallagher** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY**.

RS 30013: **Rep. Shepherd**, District 7, presented **RS 30013** to protect individual rights within the workplace. During the recent health emergency, non-fully tested vaccinations were required. Jobs were lost by individuals concerned about the vaccinations. In response to questions, he said the recent untested vaccine was approved prior to the emergency declaration. This would not pertain to standard vaccinations or healthcare workers.

MOTION: **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to introduce **RS 30013**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 29911C1: **Chairman Vander Woude** stated the sponsor of **RS 29911C1** has requested it be withdrawn from consideration.

RS 29968: **Tim Frost**, Deputy Administrator, Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (DOPL), presented **RS 29968** on behalf of the Health Professions Bureau. This proposed legislation creates the Idaho Allied Health Professionals Board. It will combine the boards for physical therapy licensure, dietetic licensure, occupational therapy licensure, athletic trainers, and respiratory therapy licensure. The downsize to one nine-member board will result in fewer board meetings and lower costs.

MOTION: **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to introduce **RS 29968**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman Vander Woude asked the committee for their input regarding the continuation of Medicaid expansion. Responses included the need for extending the reporting time frame in order to analyze the expansion during a non-pandemic period. Concern was expressed regarding the increased budget request and lack of cost controls when one-third of the participants are expected to be ineligible. Additional concern was voiced regarding focusing on fiscal issues and not the benefits.

Ross Edmunds, Administrator, Division of Behavioral Health (BH), was invited to share how the expansion has provided an improved continuum of services, especially for individuals with chronic health conditions. Improved physical health directly impacts BH. Without Medicaid expansion, BH services would be limited and not include general health care.

Dave Jeppeson, Director, Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), stated Idaho would pay \$20M to return to the previous limited array of BH services. The current services have allowed these individuals to stay in their homes, have jobs, and contribute to society. Without the expansion a large group of individuals who fall below the 138% federal poverty limit (FPL) would again be uninsured. He and **Mr. Edmunds** emphasized BH and mental health (MH) are treatable conditions. These individuals are inclined to be violent towards themselves, not the public.

Director Jeppeson stated the 2024 budget request was formulated prior to the removal of the public health emergency. CMS requires a full determination process before anyone can be determined no longer eligible and removed. Not following these guidelines would result in serious fines.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Representative Vander Woude
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary