

MINUTES  
**SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Monday, February 06, 2023
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW54
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman Zuiderveld, Senators Lee, Harris, Bjerke, Wintrow, and Taylor
- 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 VanOrden** called the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) at 3:05 p.m. She announced a change in the agenda order.
- RS 30208** **Relating to Optometrists. Senator Grow** explained the Legislation would allow Idaho Optometrists the ability to safely use three in-office therapeutic laser procedures to treat Idahoans.
- MOTION:** **Vice-chairman Zuiderveld** moved to send **RS 30208** to print. **Senator Bjerke** seconded the motion. The motion was carried by **voice vote**.
- PRESENTATION:** **Relating to the Medicaid Cost Containment Interim Report. Michael Heifetz**, Director, Sellers Dorsey explained they responded to a Request for Report (RFP) from the State to conduct a review of the Idaho Medicaid Program. The first report was a short term review for cost savings and/or revenue maximization strategies for the Medicaid program. The second report would be about potential changes and strategies in the medicaid program, and is due in April 2023. The presentation graphs outline Medicaid spending by categories and funding sources (see Attachment 1).
- DISCUSSION:** **Senator Lee** asked how the information was obtained on what was unique to Idaho. **Director Heifetz** replied Idaho's geography makes it different from most states due to it's many rural areas. The size of the Medicaid program does matter in any state, as it is part of the dynamics that go along with budgeting Medicaid issues. **Senator Lee** asked why the report did not look at pharmacy spending. **Director Heifetz** replied there were no recommendations at this time, as this was a larger issue that was not contained in the short term report.
- Senator Bjerke** asked if the 65.7 million dollars in savings shown in the chart recommendations was the same amount presently spent out of the General Fund, and what were some of the pros and cons between managed care and fee for service for someone who does this type of consulting work.
- Director Heifetz** replied the 65.7 million dollars was a General Fund reduction. In relation to managed care and advantages, It's not just a perspective of the firm necessarily, as managed care largely off-loads the budget risk. A managed care entity still must be paid. **Senator Bjerke** asked if statistically, across the nation, if more states lead in managed care or fee for service. **Director Heifetz** replied many states have managed care, and each state varies, as managed care still must be overseen.

**Senator Wintrow** inquired if Director Heifetz reviewed the Office Performance Evaluation (OPE) report, and if it helped him form the presentation. **Director Heifetz** replied it did, yet this report was only a 90 day look at the Medicaid Program.

**Chairman VanOrden** asked what Idaho's assessment tax was at this time. **Director Heifetz** replied his understanding was that Idaho did not have such an assessment.

**Senator Lee** asked Juliet Charron, Medicaid Administrator, what could be done to ensure the fidelity of the Medicaid Program. **Ms. Charron** replied the administrative component to running the program was lean, as they were looking forward to the final Sellers Dorsey report in April to give them a road map of cost containment in the long term, and look at staffing going forward with that model.

**Senator Lee** inquired if there was information to show when Idaho removed the adult dental program, and what those additional costs were when it was removed. **Ms. Charron** replied she would follow up with that information, as she believed the adult dental benefit was removed from the Program, then reinstated.

**Senator Wintrow** asked if there was an estimate on what the savings would be after the eligibility removal process. **Ms. Charron** replied they have done their best to predict what the following year would look like, however they would not know at this point. **Senator Wintrow** asked how many were in Medicaid Expansion population, and if there were recommendations regarding home and community based services. **Ms. Charron** replied the Expansion populations was not as large when compared to the tradition Medicaid population, and there was more review to be done around the home and community based services recommendations.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at that time, **Chairman VanOrden** adjourned the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

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Senator VanOrden  
Chair

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Michelle Tierney  
Secretary