

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 07, 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) to order at 3:02 p.m.

PRESENTATION: Relating to Medicaid Budget Information. Jill Randolph, Principal Analyst, Division of Budget and Policy Analysis (Division) stated the budget review was done at the request of the Department of Health and Welfare (Agency), and the Governor's recommendation. This presentation provided a look back at what the Agency had done, a look into the current fiscal year, what the Agency was doing, and what the Agency had requested for fiscal year 2024. At the top of the page there were tabs that take you from either the agency description or the deep information that was presented to the Finance Committee (JFAC). The Fiscal Source Book contains sources and the use funds for this Division (see Attachment 1).

DISCUSSION: Senator Wintrow asked if the Department used a per week, per member, per month analysis as contracting with brokers and managed care moved forward. **Ms. Randolph** replied yes, it was a more accurate way of looking at the data.

Senator Lee asked if setting up a fund would have to be made into policy. **Ms. Randolph** replied the creation of the fund itself was a departure from what they would normally do, instead of providing a direct appropriation each year from the General Fund. To set aside funds, the accessible funds would be a decision of the policy, and that transfer itself would happen through JFAC.

Chairman VanOrden informed the Committee that Director Jeppesen from the Department of Health and Welfare would be at tomorrow's meeting to answer any questions, and the Legislative Services Office (LSO) website had put together a dashboard with charts, graphs and explanations.

Senator Wintrow asked what the \$48,000 withhold on the Medicaid Tracking Report slide meant. **Ms. Randolph** stated it was a forecast document to see how the forecast was hitting the actual expenditures, and what the Legislature could expect moving forward.

Senator Taylor asked if Legislation made EMS an essential service, would it effect the EMS involved. **Ms. Randolph** replied there was a line item request in the budget for \$350,000 to develop a study to provide a direction to the legislature and to stakeholders on what statewide funding for EMS would be.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman VanOrden** adjourned the meeting at 3:54 p.m.

Senator VanOrden
Chair

Michelle Tierney
Secretary