

MINUTES  
**HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, February 13, 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 (Hoy), Rubel, Roberts

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Vice Chairman Erickson, Rep. Blanksma

**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. Roberts** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2023, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO.  
16-0201-2201:** **Chris Way**, Chairman, Time Sensitive Emergency (TSE) Council, Fire Chief, Kootenai County, presented **Docket No. 16-0201-2201**. This is a zero based regulation rewrite to update and reflect current and national standards. Removals included redundancy, pediatric trauma standards, and out-of-state surveyors. New Stroke Level II and STEMI II plus have been added, providing higher levels of care.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Roberts** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 16-0201-2201**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Dave Jeppesen**, Director, Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), presented the DHW budget request highlights.

Behavioral health (BH) highlights include the launch of the 988 health crisis line and the award of four youth crisis center start-up grants. Three psychiatric residential treatment facilities are finalizing start-up grants.

Family and community services experienced the addition of twenty-four new positions in 2022 along with a new staffing model. The South West Idaho Treatment Center (SWITC) received a citation-free survey.

He then explained specific budget requests for the Divisions of Family Services, Developmentally Disabled, Division of Welfare, Medicaid, Indirect Support Services, Licensing and Certification, BH, and Public Health.

**Director Jeppesen** shared information on kinship families and the Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment, Resources, and Treatment (START) Program at SWITC.

The child care stabilization grants utilized American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and will revert to the original block grant on September, 2023.

**Director Jeppesen** described value-care for Medicaid, its impact on providers and incorporating the Medicaid expansion population.

He updated the committee on the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) replacement project, which will include a Request for Proposal (RFP) and annual demonstrations of accomplished milestones.

The receipt authority request addresses excess pharmacy rebates by increased authority and lower state and federal fund obligations, changing the tradition of additional funds carry over.

He explained the Upper Payment Limit (UPL) and its impact on hospitals, federal funds, general funds, emergency medical transports, and home and community based services (HCBS).

The BH Division's new recovery coach academy leverages the experience of persons who have completed recovery. This is a priority of the Idaho Behavioral Health Council and a powerful support for persons in the recovery process.

Due to decreased juveniles within the system, the Idaho Juvenile Corrections block grant is no longer being used. A request has been made to transfer the grant funds to the Youth Crisis Centers.

The addition of six new beds for use at the Syringa Nursing Home will be an ongoing increased amount and incorporated into their base budget. Answering a question, he explained there is an increase in individuals requiring this type of care for psychiatric and complex medical conditions.

The new public health infrastructure five-year grant combines ARPA and non-ARPA funds, allowing the Public Health District (PHD) to determine their infrastructure. Through sub grants 75% of the funds will go directly to the PHDs.

**Director Jeppesen** explained the Healthcare Directive Registry, which is easy to use, secures the information, and is accessible for physicians.

The 2022 Office of Performance Evaluations report recommended an overall review of the Emergency Medical Services model. Funding has been requested for a contractor to help the existing work group develop proposals for the 2024 legislative session.

Responding to a question, **Director Jeppesen**, explained the SWITC remodel revealed more asbestos than expected for the demolition. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) final approval is required before they can break ground.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

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Representative Vander Woude  
Chair

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Irene Moore  
Secretary