

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 14, 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. Roberts** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 3 and 7, 2023, meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 30643: **Rep. Jordan Redman**, District 3, presented **RS 30643** to develop a task force, including stakeholders, to determine the best way to address the rising Medicaid program costs. In answer to a question, he said this proposed legislation has been shared with many of the providers and hospitals.

MOTION: **Rep. Mitchell** made a motion to introduce **RS 30643** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Roberts** and **Chew** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Redman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Tim Kilgallon, CEO, Ideal Option, presented information to the committee on their nine Idaho addiction treatment clinics. He described the historic changes in the types of addictive substances, the epidemic wave theory, and the new synthetic drugs. With multiple ingredients in the drugs, patients are often unaware of what they are consuming.

The cartel drugs are cheaper, more available, more deadly, come in a legitimate looking format, and are incredibly profitable. Most are not detectable by standard diagnostics, although specialized equipment exists.

Patients, ranging in age, come from all walks of life and have typically had a substance use disorder for four to five years before seeking treatment. He described the downward spiral experienced by patients.

A real-time early warning system is simple to develop using existing data because outcomes are easily measured and published regularly by treatment centers. Verifiable savings exist with reductions in emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and criminal justice usage. The existing informational system in Idaho relies on confiscated product and forensic labs.

Mr. Kilgallon described the use of buprenorphine and other medications in their outpatient treatment approach to help patients get back their lives. Once on maintenance, medication is prescribed and handled through telemedicine. The data shows a fairly linear recovery path.

To address the epidemic, he recommends Idaho deploy an early warning system, expand measurement-based treatment, and review tracking data to evaluate outcomes and savings.

Responding to questions, **Mr. Kilgallon** said the deceptive forms of opioids found at gas stations are being added to several other state schedules. He described the specialty equipment which measures a molecule's weight to identify a substance's presence. Regular patient testing assures their patients are taking the prescribed medication.

Due to time constraints, the Idaho Caregiver Alliance presentation will be scheduled for the Wednesday, March 15, 2023, meeting.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Representative Vander Woude
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary