

MINUTES
Approved by the Committee
Medicaid Review Panel
Friday, March 28, 2025
1:00 P.M.
Room WW53
Boise, Idaho

Members in attendance: Cochairs Representative Vander Woude and Senator VanOrden; Senators Harris, Bjerke, Cook, and Wintrow; Representatives Redman, Tanner, Wheeler, Rubel, Beiswenger; absent: Senator Adams. Legislative Services Office (LSO) staff: Kyle Slominski, Alex Williamson, Jennifer Kish.

NOTE: Presentations and handouts provided by the presenters/speakers are posted to the Idaho Legislature's website <https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2025/interim/> and copies of those items are on file at the Legislative Services Office in the State Capitol. Recordings of the meeting may be available under the committee's listing on the website.

At 1:02 p.m., Cochair VanOrden called the meeting to order; a silent roll call was taken. Cochair VanOrden asked for action on the October 21, 2024 minutes. **Senator Harris made a motion to approve the minutes; Cochair Vander Woude seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Cochair VanOrden noted that the goal of the meeting was so members could reconnect and "gear up again." She emphasized the added responsibility towards Medicaid than originally planned, and she requested that members review House Bill 345 and relate concerns for the next meeting. She shared that there had been conversations with different entities regarding the direction the review panel wished to go. She stressed that there would be a major change happening at the Department of Health and Welfare and that the review panel was working with the department.

Cochair Vander Woude anticipated more attention on managed care organizations (MCOs) and that conversations should start soon. He mentioned Alex Adams would be moving onto the national level, and the panel would have to prevent "speed bumps" as everyone goes through the transitional process.

Senator Wintrow pointed out that Ms. Charron, Deputy Director of Health and Welfare, previously expressed concern about rules for the disability community but none of the services offered would be harmed.

Representative Wheeler questioned the best way for panel members to report to one another. Cochair VanOrden answered it could be an agenda item for the next meeting. Cochair Vander Woude requested anyone interested in being involved in the managed care aspect to contact the panel secretary.

Senator Cook communicated his experience and noted that one of the first things to do is gather requirements - not look to see what someone has to offer. He stressed focusing on the wants and needs as a state and to talk with those "down in the trenches."

Senator Wintrow concurred with Senator Cook and reflected back to prior meetings and the ability to hear from providers, the disability community, and families and parents about the needs and gaps that the new model could address.

Senator Bjerke supported the idea of starting with a consultant and that others will identify the state's needs based on its demographics and comparisons with other states to give the panel a starting point.

Cochair Vander Woude pointed out that House Bill 345 may provide funds for a consultant to help the review panel develop a plan before reaching out to the providers.

Representative Rubel inquired about internal research staff as resources to see what processes other states have undertaken to assess their needs. She agreed that a good starting point would be a needs assessment.

Sasha O'Connell, Medicaid Deputy Administrator, Department of Health and Welfare, joined the discussion and ensured the panel that the department plans to hire a consultant.

Representative Wheeler reminded the panel that last year, an MCO contract was implemented in behavioral health and asked what lessons could be learned from that implementation.

A future meeting was set for Friday, May 23.

With no further business, the committee adjourned at 1:27 p.m.