

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 17, 2024

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Vander Woude, Vice Chairman Erickson, Representatives Blanksma, Kingsley, Mitchell (Schoenberg), Dixon(24), Gallagher, Healey, Redman, Wheeler, Chew (Wilson), Rubel, Roberts

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Blanksma, Kingsley

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.

Chairman Vander Woude turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Erickson**.

DOCKET NO. 16-0309-2301: **William Deseron**, Program Manager, Division of Medicaid, Policy and Innovation, Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), presented **Docket No. 16-0309-2301**, Medicaid Basic Plan benefits. The changes decrease regulatory burdens, make technical corrections, remove language related to the end of the public health emergency and return to standard operations, and align the Idaho Behavioral Health Plan with the Medicaid State Plan.

Updates also include the 2023 legislative statute and rule changes for bridge year physicians, the Medical Consent and Natural Death Act, criminal abortions, international medical graduates, and criminal history and background checks. Additional simplified language resulted in no meaning changes.

MOTION: **Rep. Redman** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 16-0309-2301**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 16-0310-2101: **William Deseron**, Program Manager, Division of Medicaid, Policy and Innovation, DHW, presented **Docket No. 16-0310-2101**, Medicaid Enhanced Plan benefits. The changes decrease regulatory burdens, make technical corrections, remove language related to the end of the public health emergency and return to standard operations, meet requirements of the KW Settlement Agreement, allow parents and spouses to provide personal care services, limit the number of residents in residential habilitation, adjust the number of hours allowed for Developmental Disability (DD) services, align with necessary DD waiver operations, require background checks for non-medical transportation, and align with criminal history and background checks statute updates. Language was simplified with no changes to meaning.

During conducted public hearings one comment was received regarding home delivered meals. There was no further pursuit on the comment due to concerns regarding Idaho businesses facing additional competition from other states.

Responding to questions, **Mr. Deseron** stated non-medical transportation covers trips outside of medical appointments. Drivers can be an agency or family member being paid for that service. Uber and Lyft are not a part of this service.

Juliet Charron, Administrator, DHW, was invited to answer further questions. She said the Basic Medicaid Plan serves specific individuals with general benefits for physical health. The Enhanced Plan is for individuals with DDs and higher levels of need. It includes benefits and services to allow them to live in a community home setting. Once an individual is eligible for the basic plan an application can be made for the enhanced program. Background checks for providers are different than those within the foster care program.

Miren Unsworth, Deputy Director, DHW, clarified the Code X background check is only used for foster care immediate placement. Medicaid plan providers utilize the state Background Check Program through the DHW.

MOTION: **Rep. Redman** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 16-0310-2101**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 16-0313-2101: **William Deseron**, Program Manager, Division of Medicaid, Policy and Innovation, DHW, presented **Docket No. 16-0313-2101**, Consumer-Directed Services. The changes decrease regulatory burdens, make technical corrections, remove language related to the end of the public health emergency and return to standard operations, and align with federal regulations for conflict of interest. Language was simplified with no changes to meaning.

MOTION: **Rep. Roberts** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 16-0313-2101**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 16-0318-2301: **William Deseron**, Program Manager, Division of Medicaid, Policy and Innovation, DHW, presented **Docket No. 16-0318-2301**, for cost sharing. Changes improve and simplify language with no change to meaning. Specific programs addressed were the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Home and Community Based Programs, Home Care for Certain Disabled Children (Katie Beckett), Youth Empowerment Services (YES), and Workers with Disabilities.

Jennifer Pinkerton, Policy Analyst, Division of Medicaid, DHW, was invited to answer a question. She explained the income verification utilizes interfaces with Social Security, the Department of Labor, the tax commissions, and employers.

Mr. Deseron, in answer to a question, said families can request a redetermination anytime their household income changes. **Ms. Charron** clarified premiums vary based on the family's program and household income requirements. Regardless of the program or services, co-pays are set at \$3.65. She also stated CHIP offers a premium grace period and exemptions for family hardships. Federal and state regulations do not allow removal of a family from any program due to failure to pay premiums.

MOTION: **Rep. Dixon(24)** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 16-0318-2301**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Vice Chairman Erickson turned the gavel over to **Chairman Vander Woude**.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee the meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Representative Erickson
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary