

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 30, 2024

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman VanOrden, Senators Lee, Harris, Bjerke, Zuiderveld, 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: **Chair VanOrden** called the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:01 p.m.

PRESENTATION: **Idaho Association of Free and Charitable Clinics. Carly Erickson**, Executive Director, Idaho Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (Association), relayed there were 13 free clinics that provided quality healthcare to uninsured Idahoans. Each free and charitable clinic in the State was an independent community effort which utilized doctors, nurses, dentists, and counselors who volunteered their time. She stated the Association was working to have their clinics added to the State's list of non-profits, which allowed organizations to donate their tax returns to help support the clinics.

Steve Davis, CEO, Genesis Community Clinics, explained the part free clinics played in providing healthcare to Idahoan's who were outside of Medicare eligibility. The clinics assisted patients in the 138% to 200% range of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) who were unable to access or afford health insurance. He stated the clinics utilized partnerships with universities, colleges, and many volunteers to provide the needed services. **Mr. Davis** asked the Committee to include free clinics in their plans for health care access to those in need in Idaho.

DISCUSSION: In response to Committee questions, **Mr. Davis** relayed that there were many more people needing assistance than the clinics were able to help and the clinics would like to go up to 300% of the FPL. The clinics treated chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and dental, with the goal to treat the issues before they were extensive.

DOCKET NO. 16-0202-2301 **Idaho Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Physician Commission (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Proposed Rule. Dr. Curtis Sandy**, Chairman, EMS Physician Commission explained the changes included updating the scope of practice, removed duplicative language, and reduced the regulatory burden regarding EMS clinicians working in hospitals and clinics. The Physician Commission also maintained a standards manual that outlined the responsibilities of physicians who served as medical directors. **Dr. Sandy** stated that a new tactical EMS scope of practice was created in support of tactical EMS teams, which provided coverage for law enforcement activities. Tactical EMS personnel required specialized training and certification.

DISCUSSION: In response to questions from Senator Bjerke, **Dr. Sandy** relayed that as new research came out the standards were set from national consensus, a combination of recommendations from national organizations, scope of practice, and treatment within the nation. He explained that the scope of practice model for Idaho was derived from the national scope of practice that was published by the Department of Transportation, National Highway Transportation Safety Administration. **Dr. Sandy** stated Idaho was a little cutting edge in that its agencies were small enough to facilitate changes more quickly.

MOTION: **Senator Harris** moved to approve **Docket No. 16-0202-2301**. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 16-0224-2301 **Clandestine Drug Laboratory Cleanup (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Proposed Rule.** **Brigitta Gruenberg**, Environmental Health Program Manager, Division of Public Health, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) stated the changes removed outdated requirements, rewrote sections for clarity and ease-of-use including unnecessary and redundant words, unnecessary numbering, removed repetitive language, and also removed definitions included in statute. The rules also established a program to add and remove residential properties that had housed a clandestine drug laboratory from a list maintained by DHW. Realtors, landlords, property owners, property buyers, property sellers, disaster cleanup contractors, local governmental municipalities, qualified industrial hygienists, law enforcement, hazardous waste removal experts, and laboratories were affected by this rule.

MOTION: **Senator Lee** moved to approve **Docket No. 16-0224-2301**. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 16-0418-2301 **Children's Agencies and Residential Licensing - Temporary and Proposed Rule.** **Frede Teske**, Program Manager, Therapeutic and Residential Program, Licensing and Certification, DHW relayed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation rejected the language as written because it was not specific enough in identifying the actual job classes of individuals subject to a background check. The changes simply listed out job categories, such as 'case manager,' 'teacher' or 'direct care staff' instead of using general terms such as 'facilities staff' as originally written in this chapter. She stated that the requirements for who must receive a background check remained unchanged.

DISCUSSION: In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Teske** explained the additional changes were made removing sections that were duplicative of statute and that the discretion for background checks had not increased or decreased.

MOTION: **Senator Taylor** moved to approve **Docket No. 16-0418-2301**. **Senator Bjerke** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 16-0301-2301 **Eligibility for Health Care Assistance for Families and Children (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Proposed Rule.** **Laura Schumaker**, Policy Program Manager, SNAP, Medicaid Policy, Employment & Training, DHW stated the revisions consolidated requirements, reduced redundancy within the chapter, and removed requirements that were no longer applicable or were obsolete. She explained one written comment from the Division of Medicaid was received and addressed by the changes made in the rewrite. She stated Pregnancy Medicaid referred to a reference number no longer in rule and was added back into the description and the coverage was clarified.

MOTION: **Senator Bjerke** moved to approve **Docket No. 15-0301-2301**. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO.
16-0305-2301**

Eligibility for Aid to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (AABD) (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Proposed Rule. **Laura Schumaker** stated to reduce redundancy the requirements were consolidated or removed if no longer applicable or were obsolete. The revisions did not change eligibility requirements.

MOTION:

Senator Lee moved to approve **Docket No. 156-0305-2301**. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO.
16-0306-2301**

Refugee Medical Assistance - Proposed Rule. **Laura Schumaker** stated the changes aligned the chapter with the Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) requirements under 45 CFR 400.211 (B) and announcements from the Federal Register. The revisions did not change eligibility requirements for refugee medical assistance, but changed only the length of the coverage as indicated and funded by the federal program.

MOTION:

Senator Wintrow moved to approve **Docket No. 156-0306-2301**. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO.
16-0304-2301**

Idaho Food Stamp Program (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Proposed Rule. **Kristin Matthews**, Bureau Chief, DHW stated to reduce redundancy the requirements were consolidated or removed if no longer applicable or were obsolete. The rule was updated to increase the age limits for individuals subject to able bodied adult without dependents, or able to work requirements, and provided exceptions for certain individuals receiving food stamps. She stated that the revisions did not change eligibility requirements for individuals and families.

MOTION:

Senator Taylor moved to approve **Docket No. 16-0304-2301**. **Senator Bjerke** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business at this time, **Chair VanOrden** adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

Senator VanOrden
Chair

Lena Amoah
Secretary