

MINUTES  
**SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, March 11, 2024

**TIME:** 2:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW54

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair 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 2:00 p.m.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Zuiderveld** moved to approve the Minutes of February 5, 2024. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Taylor** moved to approve the Minutes of February 6, 2024. **Senator Bjerke** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Bjerke** moved to approve the Minutes of February 8, 2024. **Senator Zuiderveld** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Wintrow** moved to approve the Minutes of February 28, 2024. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**RS 31616** **Concurrent Resolution.** Senate Concurrent Resolution adopts IDAPA 24.05.01, Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses, Docket No. 24-0501-2301.

**MOTION:** **Chair VanOrden** asked for unanimous consent to send **RS 31616** to Judiciary & Rules Committee for introduction and printing. There were no objections.

**GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT:** **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Appointment of James McNamara of Boise, Idaho to the Hazardous Waste Facility Siting Commencing February 23, 2024 and expiring February 23, 2024. Dr. James McNamara** stated that he was a professor in the Department of Geo-Sciences at Boise State University (BSU) with a specialty in hydrology. He explained that he had been at BSU for 25 years developing a hydrology program. He stated that he was very interested in helping out the Committee where he could. He had been at BSU for 27 years or so where he established field research sites around the region, mostly focused on water movement, chemistry, and biogeochemistry of mountain watersheds with an emphasis on snow dominated processes.

**DISCUSSION:**

In response to Committee questions, **Dr. McNamara** explained that his specialty was hydrology which was the movement of water through landscapes. His undergraduate degree was in geology. He then pursued a master's degree in hydrogeology, which was the study of flow in the subsurface with applications to things like contaminant transport. After the master's program, he completed a PhD program in watershed hydrology that dealt with the flow of water through landscapes from atmosphere to subsurface. He went on to explain that he was motivated in transitioning his career from being research-focused to application focused using his skill sets for local hydrological problems. It was his understanding that the Committee dealt with high waste sites, an area where he had a lot of expertise. He then explained that his motivation came from a request by the BSU Administrators and it paired with his changing professional interests and objectives to shift his expertise from research to application of his skills.

**Chair VanOrden** thanked **Dr. McNamara** for his time and explained they would be voting at the next Committee meeting.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:**

**Senator Lee** moved to approve the Minutes of February 13, 2024. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:**

**Senator Lee** moved to approve the Minutes of February 14, 2024. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:**

**Senator Lee** moved to approve the Minutes of February 21, 2024. **Senator Zuiderveld** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**H 577**

**MEDICAID - Amends existing law to establish provisions for directed payments to qualifying hospitals.** This legislation authorized the Department of Health and Welfare to seek approval from the centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to establish a program for State-directed payments under Idaho's Managed Care Statute. **David Lehman**, representing Cottonwood Creek Behavioral Hospital was presenting.

**Mr. Lehman** explained how **H 577** allowed the Department of Health and Welfare to begin the process of directed payments for hospitals that participated in managed care plans and how managed care plans would work. He urged the Committee to send **H 577** to the floor with a do pass recommendation.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Lee** moved to send **H 577** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Bjerke** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PRESENTATION:**

**Idaho Network of Children's Advocacy Centers (INCAC).** **Sonya Howerton**, executive director, presented to the Committee about the positive impact the program had on the lives of children (Attachment 1).

**DISCUSSION:**

In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Howerton** described the types of cases the INCAC and other organizations collaborated on. Further questions were directed to **Peggy Sherburne** from the Lilly Brook Family Justice Center (Center) in Sandpoint, Idaho. **Ms. Sherburne** explained that about 25 percent of the Center's cases were minors without a parent or guardian with them and many were from the juvenile detention facilities.

In response to further Committee member questions, **Ms. Howerton** went on to explain how the Center had worked with the Department of Health and Welfare and other groups. **Ms. Sherburne** ended with an explanation of juvenile versus adult offenders and what the numbers looked like.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business at this time, **Chair VanOrden** adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

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Senator VanOrden  
Chair

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Lena Amoah  
Secretary