

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 26, 2026

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair VanOrden, Senators Harris, Zuiderveld, Shippy, and Wintrow

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Vice Chair Bjerke, Senators Lenney, Blaylock, and Keyser

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 3:10 p.m.

PRESENTATION: **H 345 (2025) and Medicaid Managed Care Update. Sasha O'Connell**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW), presented the following information (Attachment 1):

- H 345 requirement that the IDHW regularly engage with the Medicaid Review Panel.
- H 345 and One Big Beautiful Bill Act implementation.
- H 345 implementation progress.
- Medicaid cost-sharing.
- Medicaid Delivery Systems.
 - a. Fee-for-service
 - b. Managed care
- Managed care in Idaho.
- Managed care goals and implementation timelines.
 - a. Goals for transition
 - b. Initial program design approach
 - c. Transition timeline
- Stakeholder Engagement.
 - a. Regional Listening Sessions
 - b. Managed Care RFI
 - c. Findings that can inform Idaho's approach
- Program Design.
 - a. Other State's best practices
 - b. Design Pillars
 - c. Care Coordination and Case Management

In closing, **Ms. O'Connell** asked the Committee to reach out and stay engaged with IDHW.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Wintrow** asked how screening obligations were addressed following the repeal of § 56-253 Idaho Code, which included provisions related to Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Services (EPSDT) requirements. **Ms. O'Connell** stated changes over the last couple of years under former Director Adams aimed to decrease language that referred to federal guidance. The general directive for IDHW was to offer suggestions about what could be eliminated in code if there was already clear guidance by federal regulations. She explained EPSDT was outlined in the Social Security Act as services that must be provided to youth even if the state insurance plan did not cover the services. The federal government required the State pay for services that ameliorated or improved child health. There was a more specific list of services in EPSDT that were also protected outside of that general definition. Idaho was still subject to that requirement.

Senator Wintrow stated there were people concerned when the code was repealed. She asked if the lack of state guidance was transparent enough to ensure parents and families understood that these early screenings were federally-mandated and Idaho was still doing them. She asked if there were concerns from the community since the code was repealed. **Ms. O'Connell** stated there was not concern when 2025 H 345 passed but there were more recent discussions regarding the potential elimination of some services. She stated she had heard concerns from families about whether EPSDT would still be in place to protect these screenings and explained they would still be offered.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chair VanOrden** adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Senator VanOrden
Chair

Madyson Crea
Secretary