

MINUTES  
**HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016  
**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.  
**PLACE:** Room EW20  
**MEMBERS:** Chairman Wood, Vice Chairman Packer, Representatives Hixon, Perry, Romrell, Vander Woude, Beyeler, Redman, Troy, Rusche, Chew  
**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None  
**GUESTS:** Kelli Brassfield, IAC

**Chairman Wood** called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Sara Thomas**, Idaho State Appellate Public Defender, Chair, Idaho Criminal Justice Commission (ICJC), presented the ICJC legislative update. Created in 2005 by executive order, the ICJC is made up of members from the executive, judicial, and legislative branches, as well as members from counties, cities, and other stakeholders.

In covering the ICJC strategic plan, **Ms. Thomas** reviewed goals under the topics of combating crime and protecting citizens, providing policy makers and criminal justice decision makers with accurate information, and promoting efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

Effective interventions have balanced, cost effective solutions based on best practices. This can be accomplished through a strengthened knowledge base, enhanced data collection, expanded assessment use, promotion of standards and equity, shared capabilities, emerging issue examinations, ongoing training, awareness of substance abuse trends, and stakeholder agency agreements.

The five ICJC subcommittees are pre-trial justice, standard recidivism definition, mental health (MH), research alliance, and criminal fees and fines.

**Ms. Thomas** previewed future legislation and recommended sex offense statute changes. Idaho does not have a sexual battery statute, so persons charged with such crimes in other states do not have to register here. The ICJC also recommends amending both the rape and marital rape statutes.

In response to committee questions, **Ms. Thomas** said rather than a statutory commission, the ICJC works better as an executive commission. A big hurdle for MH within the criminal population is care access, especially in smaller counties.

**Sarah Toevs**, Idaho Caregiver Alliance (ICA), presented a report from the ICA and Idaho Family Caregiver Task Force. The ICA task force mission and vision is to advance caregiver well-being through collaborative improvement of statewide access to quality, responsive support.

The ICA has 300 members and was launched in 2013 with support from the Administration for Community Living. With the completion of a three-year grant, continuous funding sources are being researched.

More than one in four Idahoans are caregivers, which makes it possible for children and adults living with disabilities, long term illnesses, and frailties to live at home. Most caregivers juggle paid work with caregiver responsibilities. Caring for family members in their homes saves Idaho resources by delaying the need for institutional care.

In 2015, the passage of **HCR 24** created a Family Caregiver Task Force. Concerns expressed by caregivers include limited assistance, assistance based on care recipient, inadequate training, incomplete information, few sustainable resources, and little support for respite care.

The Task Force recommends increased community awareness, the creation of support for family caregivers, along with engaging and integrating them into health system transformations. One specific idea was to partner with community-based emergency medical system team post-call visits to provide lower-cost follow up care and reduce emergency room visits.

In response to committee questions, **Ms. Toevs** said a caregiver registry is worth consideration. Family homes reimbursement rates and respite care are high on the challenges list.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

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Representative Wood  
Chair

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Michele Jarvis  
Secretary