

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, February 07, 2020

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Wood, Vice Chairman Wagoner, Representatives Vander Woude, Gibbs, Blanksma, Kingsley, Zollinger, Christensen, Lickley, Remington, Chew, Rubel, Davis

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Blanksma, Zollinger, Lickley

GUESTS: Mary C. Niland, Maureen Stoker, and Glenn Roach, Witco/Access Idaho; Joyce Broadsword and Dave Jeppesen, DHW; Francoise Cleveland, AARP Idaho

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

MOTION: **Rep. Davis** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 28 and 30, 2020, meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Dave Jeppesen, Director, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), presented the annual DHW budget update.

The DHW mission is to promote and protect the health and safety of Idahoans. The vision is to provide leadership for a sustainable, integrated health and human services system. Through the course of the year the DHW will interact with over half of Idaho's population through different entities.

The strategic plan, state fiscal year 2020-2024, paves the way to address the issues facing Idaho's most vulnerable citizens. The DHW staff meets weekly to discuss each of the four plan goals in detail. The performance measure, to move the metrics as needed or complete a specific project, includes target dates. This has helped complete 34% of the plan tasks and has led to identification of new tasks.

There are four strategic plan goals:

Goal 1: ensure affordable, available healthcare that works. Current legislation, **H 351**, directs the hospitals, nursing facilities, and DHW to work together to establish new Medicaid reimbursement methods. State Hospital West, an adolescent facility, has a budget request of \$2,964,000 from the General Fund (GF) to address the expanding need of the facility. The expansion will free up twenty beds in State Hospital South, allowing them to meet the adult population's need. This is a start-up request with operation to begin in February or March, 2021. State funding is required until certification is received and Medicaid billing begins. Staff will be added to this facility and the existing adolescent staff will be retained at State Hospital South.

Goal 2: protect children, youth, and vulnerable adults. The first objective is to ensure children who have experienced abuse or neglect have safe, permanent homes. This is reflected in the Child Welfare Transformation Project budget request of \$5,348,000 GF and the child welfare staffing budget request of \$198,100 GF. This project, in its third and final year, uses the child safety module to provide quick, effective assessments to move children to safety. Case management is the next portion to be implemented. The staffing request addresses the need to have the right number of staff to achieve the objectives in a timely manner.

The second objective is to transform the Idaho behavioral healthcare (BH) system for adults with serious mental illness and addiction. A \$500,000 GF request will assure Community Recovery Centers stay viable.

Goal 3: help Idahoans become as healthy and self-sufficient as possible. The target suicide rate reduction, 20% by 2025, is much bigger than any provider, family, community, or individual can address alone. The Idaho Suicide Prevention Collective has been successful with their robust plan to pilot a specific zero suicide prevention approach. Fourteen hospitals have been trained in the approach. Using the Sources of Strength program, the Collective has helped twenty-three schools this year.

Goal 4: strengthen the public's trust and confidence in the DHW. A customer experience mapping tool tracks an individual's journey and interaction, indicating where improvements can be made, especially when crossing multiple programs.

Director Jeppesen drew the committee's attention to several zero dollar line items, which may have a budget impact. These include ambulatory surgical centers, Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) re-procurement, non-emergency medical transport (NEMT) contract increases, and electronic visit verifications, which are now required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The Advance Care Directive Registry \$500,000 GF request addresses its move from the Secretary of State's office, providing direct access so the loved one's wishes are followed.

The voluntary Home Visitation Program, \$1,000,000 GF request, is an ongoing request. This prevention program helps individuals learn how to be parents. This is important to help persons without parenting models provide stability and keep their families together.

Answering committee questions, **Director Jeppesen** explained the child welfare staffing request amount includes benefits. The ambulatory surgical center rates remain less than hospitals. There is an epidemiology team, with a plan and national partners, on call and monitoring Idaho for any coronavirus outbreak. The DHW is prepared to respond quickly and effectively to protect Idahoans. Action to improve BH services continues, in conjunction with the Governor's executive order, the Supreme Court's proclamation, and Senate legislation, with the formation of the BH Council. The council will include thirteen cross-functional members. An advisory group will also be created with as many providers involved as possible.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to bring before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

Representative Wood
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary