

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, February 08, 2019

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Lincoln Auditorium

MEMBERS: Chairman Wood, Vice Chairman Wagoner, Representatives Vander Woude, Gibbs, Blanksma, Kingsley, Zollinger, Christensen, Green(2), Lickley, Chew, Rubel, Davis
Chairman Martin, Vice Chairman Souza, Senators Heider, Lee, Harris, Burtenshaw, Bayer, Jordan, Nelson

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained with the minutes in the committee secretary's office until the end of the session. Following the end of the session, the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Those speaking **in support** of Proposition 2 Medicaid Expansion were **Ian Bott**, Self; **Jon Brown**, United Methodist Church; **Nora Carpenter**, President, United Way Treasure Valley; **Jessica Rachels**, Member, Idaho Council for Developmental Disabilities (DD), Self; **Rebecca Forster-Casey**, Parent, Provider, Heritage Health, Constituent; **Emily Peterson**, Kimberly, Idaho; **Tracy Olson**, Self; **Yvonne Sandmire**, Self; **Donna Scranton**, Self; **Kay Hummel**, Self; **Mary McLaughlin**, Self; **Dr. Thomas Judry**, Medical Residency Participant, Veterans Affairs Hospital; **Brittaney Shipley**, Idaho Council on DD; **Melodie Brown**, Health Freedom Idaho; **Nicole Stull**, Self; **Reverend Marci Glass**, Pastor, Southwest Baptist Church, Boise; **Ceci Thunes**, Idaho Behavioral Health Alliance; **Emily Allen**, Empower Idaho; **Angela Miller**, Self; and **Frank Monasterio**, Self.

They requested Proposition 2 be funded as intended, without any restrictions or sidebars, which could produce a secondary gap population. Work requirements may hurt individuals not able to work. With coverage comes the ability to work, volunteer, and lead more independent lives. This coverage will assist persons during the two-and-a-half year Medicare disability waiting period. Do not penalize thousands on the fear that some will take advantage of the system. Blockades further discriminate against an at-risk population. Do not waste time on red tape and delays when people are fighting a clock and need help now. Money spent on preventative health bears fruit for many years. Those without healthcare receive services only during crisis cycles. The next step is to assure primary care integration with value-based models and systems. Proposition 2 allows regular care so Idahoans can get their conditions under control, enroll in school, get degrees, and work. The intention of Proposition 2 was not to impede anyone from getting coverage.

Fred Birnbaum, Idaho Freedom Foundation, spoke **in opposition** to Medicaid expansion. He said the true costs have not been made public and expecting federal funding when the government is in debt is unrealistic.

Speaking **in support** of Medicaid 2020 Children's Disability Services budget requests were **Colleen Sisk**, Owner, Syringa Family Partnership, Idaho Association of Community Providers (IACP); **Nikkita White**, IACP; and **Carlyann McLaren**, Advocates for Inclusion.

The DD program offers an array of support services for children with challenging behaviors, impacting their ability to learn, communicate, and develop their full potential. The budget items address employee retention, livable wages, service accessibility, and waiting lists.

Speaking **in support** of additional funding for non-emergency medical transport (NEMT) services were **Darren Talley**, White Tail Transportation; **Doug Loertscher**, Board Member, IACP, Developmental Disabilities Services Provider, Self; **Jill Wrem**, S.T.A.R.R. Family Behavioral Health; and **Ryan Staten**, Rollin Shuttle Services of Idaho.

With no rate increase since 2009 and a 31% broker-driven rate cut in 2010, NEMT providers are struggling. Missed appointments for this vulnerable population can lead to a crisis situation and escalating costs. One provider has been awaiting credentials for nine months. There is an impact on families when parents have to leave work because children have no transport to appointments.

Speaking **in opposition** to vaccine requirements were **Miste Karlfeldt**, Health Freedom Idaho; and **Sue Birnbaum**, Self.

The mandatory student meningitis vaccine, to be implemented in 2021, is already being added by some schools. Parents cannot file suits against the vaccine manufacturers. St. Alphonsus requires all employees to have annual flu shots and will terminate employees who choose to not be vaccinated, no matter how long they have been in their profession.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committees, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Representative Wood
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary