

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 14, 2022

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Martin, Vice Chairman Riggs, Senators Heider, Lee, Harris, VanOrden (Bair), Zito, Stennett, and Wintrow

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: **Chairman Martin** called the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:06 p.m.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Chairman Martin passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Riggs

S 1270 **Downs Syndrome Diagnosis Information Act.** Chairman Martin introduced himself to the Committee. He stated bill **S 1270** was brought by the Idaho Downs Syndrome Council. He deferred his time to Mary Murray.

Mary Murray, President, Idaho Downs Syndrome Council introduced herself to the Committee. In 2020 three regional Downs Syndrome organizations came together to form the Idaho Downs Syndrome Council. They had been working for the past two years on this bill. The bill ensured that parents who received a Down Syndrome diagnosis were provided with timely, accurate, and complete information. The goal was to assist the medical community to provide the best experience for all parents who received a Down Syndrome diagnosis pre or post natal through a well thought out information sheet. The handout contained accurate information, positive pictures, as well as local, state, and national resources that were available. (see Attachments 1-3)

TESTIMONY: The following testified in support of **S 1270**: Rob Cochems; Jared Walton; Carey Walton; Patrick Mangan; Rochelle Larsen,; Richelle Tierney, Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities; and Kristie Oakes. Each provided their story of either living with Downs Syndrome or being the parent of a child diagnosed with Downs Syndrome. The parents provided their prospective on challenges after the diagnosis which included abortion as the only solution. They stressed the need for resources to be provided.

Chairman Martin read from an e-mail received February 10, 2022 from Jill Phillips, Idaho Falls, Idaho. "It is said that the extra chromosome that persons with Down Syndrome have is called the "Joy Chromosome" because people with Down Syndrome typically share so much love and joy. Our state needs more joy!"

MOTION: **Senator Harris** moved that **S 1270** be sent to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Stennett** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Vice Chairman Riggs passed the gavel to Chairman Martin.

PRESENTATION: **Dave Jeppesen**, Director, Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) introduced himself. He informed the committee his presentation took an hour in the past but would condense it due to time constraints. He noted the RS print hearings scheduled after the presentation if the Committee would like to address them first.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Lee** suggested taking care of the RS's and sending them to print if that was the will of the Committee. **Chairman Martin** stated a motion was in order.

MOTION: **Senator Lee** moved to send **RS 29435**, Division of Licensing and Certification to move the Division of Professional Licenses; **RS 29525** Legislation to update and solve several challenges with the civil commitment statute in Idaho; **RS 29533** Idaho Telehealth Access Act, to expand the use of asynchronous technology in delivering healthcare services through telehealth; **RS 29534** Establish the Extended Employment Services Program in the Department of Health and Welfare; and **RS 29571** Naturopathic Doctor Licensing and Naturopath Registration to print. **Senator Stennett** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PRESENTATION: **Mr. Jeppesen** stated the presentation was an overview of the department and summarized the strategic plan and department budget requested for FY 2023. (see Attachments 4-8)

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Martin** asked about the state property in Nampa. **Mr. Jeppesen** responded the campus consists of 600 acres, 500 acres belonged to the golf courses the other 100 housed Southwest Idaho Treatment Center (SWITC), Idaho Job Corps, and juvenile and adult correctional facilities. He reported the golf course was being sold to the city with a clause stating the State had the right of first refusal.

Senator Riggs inquired why the golf course was being sold. **Mr. Jeppesen** stated the lease does not make money and the state would benefit by selling.

Senator VanOrden asked if the fund request was for increased staffing at SWITC Nampa and how many staff and residents there were currently. **Mr. Jeppesen** stated they were not adding but maintaining current staff of approximately 105 with 12-18 residents currently.

Senator Stennett inquired about licensed child care facilities. **Mr. Jeppesen** stated there were approximately 700. They were not seeing increased capacity or new facilities.

Chairman Martin inquired about value based care and impact to services. **Mr. Jeppesen** replied there were quality measures in place to ensure that care did not decrease under this service.

Senator Lee asked about the Office of Performance Evaluations report. **Mr. Jeppesen** stated he had not seen the report and could address it later.

Senator Harris noted 36% of providers were using value based care and questioned the whole state going to this model. **Mr. Jeppesen** reported there were 2 types of groups under this system, clinical bases and primary care organizations typically in urban areas. Rural care was different and the need to keep them viable made it difficult to include them in value based care.

Senator Stennett inquired about in home care providers and family care providers who reported they were only receiving about one third of the actual cost to provide services from Medicare, Medicaid, or other programs. **Mr. Jeppesen** pointed out the increased percentages in this years budget. He acknowledged Certified Family Homes were not included this year but would be addressed next year.

Senator Harris inquired about the Alzheimer's position from last years budget. **Mr. Jeppesen** reported that the position had been filled and there would be budget requests next year.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Martin** adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Senator Martin
Chair

Lena Amoah
Secretary