



July 16, 2020 at 3:00 pm

Location: Conducted virtually

Meeting Minutes:

Member Attendees: Dr. Andrew Baron, Matt Bell, Kathy Brashear, Denise Chuckovich, Dr. Keith Davis, Dr. Ted Epperly, Lisa Hettinger, Randall Hudspeth, Yvonne Ward-Ketchum, Dr. David Pate, Patt Richesin, Matt Wimmer

DHW Staff: Mary Sheridan, Susan Heppler, Matt Walker, Stephanie Sayegh, Ann Watkins, Elizabeth Heist

Guests: Hans Kastensmith, Dick Armstrong, Joey Vasquez, Jacqueline Smithley, Norm Varin, Scott Banken, Melissa McVaugh, Robbie Roberts, Jenni Gudapati, Craig Belcher, Janet Reis, Cynthia York, Corey Surber, Linda Rowe, Nancy Powell, Liz Hatter, Jennifer Wheeler, Luke Kilcup, Kevin Rich, Joshua Slen, Kyle Pfannenstiel, Laura Nixon, Prudence Vincent, Steve Moody, Justin Seaman

Summary of Motions/Decisions:

Motion:

Outcome: Passed

Lisa Hettinger moved to accept the minutes of the June 18, 2020 meeting of the Healthcare Transformation Council of Idaho (HTCI) as presented.
Second: Kathy Brashear

Agenda Topics:

Welcome and Opening Remarks; Roll Call; Introductions; Review of Minutes; Action Items, and Agenda Review – *Dr. Ted Epperly, HTCI Co-Chair*

Dr. Epperly opened the meeting and welcomed the members and guests. Participants were invited to unmute themselves as needed or use the chat function to ask questions.

Coronavirus/COVID-19 update – *Dr. David Pate, HTCI Co-Chair*

Ada and Canyon County have experienced a tremendous surge in COVID-19 cases. According to the data, a disproportionate number of these cases have been young adults. This is particularly concerning because new studies are showing that young adults are more likely to be asymptomatic and believed to be more than 50% of the transmission for COVID-19. For every recorded case, there are probably four to ten additional people who are also transmitting the disease.

As the beginning of the school year draws closer, governmental leaderships are leaving the decision to school principals on whether to reopen or not. School principals will have difficult decisions to make, especially in high-activity areas such as Ada and Canyon County.

Central District Health has mandated the wearing of face masks across Ada County. Southwest District Health cancelled their board meeting due to protests.

A new strain has been identified and detected in multiple parts of the world. It is more infectious but not more severe. It is not yet known if the new virus strain has become dominant in Idaho; there is currently an investigation to determine what strains are present in Idaho. In Houston, Texas, the new strain is accounting for 80% of confirmed cases.

The conclusions drawn on the immunology research have proven to be disappointing; thirteen to 40% of individuals who recover from COVID do not have detectable antibodies after three to four weeks. The cellular immune response is looking more promising. Vaccine trials continue to have promising results.

Q: Is there anything we can do to get the Governor to take the lead regarding masks?

A: The Governor is going to act if necessary but is giving local mayors the chance to act first. Some areas in Idaho are low in transmissions of the disease, however, in others we see high activity. Get your voices out to the mayors and put pressure on them.

Q: The CDC is no longer in charge of the nation's COVID-19 data. As a healthcare provider, what are your thoughts?

A: I am very concerned. I would not have been so concerned in past administrations. We have not seen this level of hostility towards public health and science experts which is dangerous. We are dealing with a novel virus, and experts will say things in the beginning that will not pan out. We will provide the public with the most up-to-date information as we discover it. As healthcare providers and scientists, we must not become afraid to speak up at all stages, even if we retract what we have said previously, based on new data.

Idaho Health Data Exchange (IHDE) presentation – *Hans Kastensmith, Executive Director, IHDE, Dick Armstrong, Vice Chair, IHDE, and Joey Vasquez, Division of Medicaid*

Over the past three years, the Idaho Health Data Exchange (IHDE) has been working with a variety of partners to improve the overall patient care experience for Idahoans receiving healthcare services. Hans Kastensmith shared the updates they are making to the legal framework, components, and fee structure of IHDE's participation agreement.

IHDE was a significant part of the State Healthcare Innovation Plan (SHIP) grant, aimed to create infrastructure in Idaho for data exchange. The Idaho State Legislature has approved Support Act funding to support the ongoing work of this initiative.

Payer Provider Workgroup (PPW) update – *Norm Varin, PPW Co-Chair*

The PPW has been working towards two major initiatives.

The first is establishing a baseline understanding of information regarding value-based reimbursement with the state of Idaho. The workgroup has reached out to carriers through Scott Banken and his team at Mercer. While the results are still pending, they are making significant progress.

Second is the creation of a survey which will identify three areas with the greatest healthcare concern; this will allow the workgroup to identify which areas payers and providers can work together to solve. PPW is trying to categorize the information in a way where each group understands across their respective professions. This is proving challenging because both professions can have two different perspectives on a category, or phrase.

Once PPW has the survey, they intend to send it to the HTCI members to share more broadly with as many payers and providers as possible. By collecting more information from all areas of the state, it will improve the value of the data.

Follow-up on subject matter expertise and at-large membership – *Led by HTCI Co-Chairs*

HTCI has three seats available for at-large membership. Ideally, these positions should be used to provide additional expertise to the council and further the work of HTCI. The HTCI co-chairs have created a quick survey for everyone to weigh in on what competencies should be considered. Once HTCI has established what expertise is needed, the council can then consider the types of individuals who could fill that position, and then consider the specific nominees for that position.

Dr. Epperly introduced the possibility of creating an annual report for the benefit of the Idaho State Legislature, Governor, or public to understand the relevance of this ongoing work and the accomplishments of HTCI.

Telehealth Task Force (TTF) update – *Jenni Gudapati, TTF Co-Chair*

The last subject matter task force meeting is scheduled for July 29th, 2020. TTF will be meeting with representatives from the Governor's Office to discuss mandates and broadband. They will be releasing a report on their recommendations after their final meeting.

Closing: *Dr. Ted Epperly*

Next Meeting: Thursday August 20th, 2020

Meeting Adjourned: 04:44 p.m.