



June 18, 2020 at 3:00 pm

Location: Conducted virtually

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## Meeting Minutes:

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**Member Attendees:** Dr. Andrew Baron, Matt Bell, Kathy Brashear, Denise Chuckovich, Dr. Keith Davis, Dr. Ted Epperly, Lisa Hettinger, Randall Hudspeth, Yvonne Ketchum-Ward, Dr. David Pate, Susie Pouliot, Patt Richesin, Cristina Thomas, Larry Tisdale, Matt Wimmer, and Liz Woodruff

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

**Guests:** Kim Ouwehand, Dr. Kelly McGrath, Linda Rowe, Jenni Gudapati, Corey Surber, Liz Hatter, Luke Kilcup, Jayne Josephsen, Craig Belcher, Kevin Rich, Dieuwke Dizney-Spencer, Nancy Powell, Tammy Perkins, and Hilary Klarc.

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## Summary of Motions/Decisions:

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**Motion:**

Randall Hudspeth moved to accept the minutes of the May 21, 2020 meeting of the Healthcare Transformation Council of Idaho as presented.  
Second: Lisa Hettinger

**Outcome: Passed**

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## Agenda Topics:

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

Dr. Epperly shared a quote from Arthur Ashe: “Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.” He related the quote to the challenges faced by HTCI amidst a pandemic. Dr. Epperly expressed that in times like these, change can happen, so we must stride forward with what we can do as healthcare providers in our state.

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

Since the June meeting, there have been significant increases in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and ICU admittance, in a little less than half of states nationwide. In Idaho, there have only been an

increase in cases, but Idaho is expected to follow the trend of neighboring states. This is not due to an increase in testing, as the percentage of tests coming back as positive is still low, but there has been an increase in positive cases.

Additionally, there has been a significant spike in the transmission of COVID-19 for those who frequented the reopened bars in Boise. This significant transmission of COVID is concerning and has been a point of discussion between local and state leaders along with public health experts.

The hopes of seeing a decrease of COVID-19 cases during the summer has not come to fruition. The lives of Idahoans in the fall will become more complicated because of additional respiratory diseases the arrival of winter. This could mirror the cases observed in March and April or become much worse. The population is still vulnerable from the first wave.

Providers must develop plans for the upcoming fall and winter and consider how to reach out to patients that aren't scheduled. For everyone who treats children, think about how to get them immunized. Everyone needs to be vaccinated for influenza.

Currently, there is not a problem with manufacturers about the supply or demand regarding the influenza vaccine and providers should be able to acquire them the same as previous years.

#### **Introductions** – *Liz Woodruff, Susan Heppler, and Matt Walker*

Liz Woodruff is the Executive Director of the Idaho Academy of Family Physicians and has joined HTCI to fill the position previously held by Neva Santos. Neva retired in June after many years of generous work and support.

Susan Heppler has been hired as the Program Manager for the Office of Healthcare Policy Initiatives (OHPI). She brings 20 years of leadership and project management to the Bureau of Rural Health and Primary Care.

Matt Walker has been hired full-time as a Health Program Specialist for OHPI, continuing in his current role in supporting HTCI and other initiatives.

#### **Health Workforce Presentation** – Randy Hudspeth, PhD, Executive Director, Idaho Center for Nursing

Randy Hudspeth expressed concern about the Registered Nurse shortage that Idaho will experience by 2025. Idaho has an already small number of Registered Nurses. Taking into consideration the number of students completing nursing degrees, the population's demand, the lack of capacity at educational institutions, limited clinical placement opportunities, and those headed for retirement, Idaho should expect to see an exponential shortage.

Dr. Ted Epperly, Randy Hudspeth, Mary Sheridan, and Susan Heppler will meet to discuss how to address this topic and bring their suggestions back to the council.

#### **Payer Provider Workgroup (PPW) update** – *Dr. Kelly McGrath, PPW Co-Chair*

The Payer Provider Workgroup established a subcommittee that has been working on specific parameters of the cost driver survey. The subcommittee will be presenting the current version to the PPW to get their feedback and refine the survey before pushing it out to HTCI. The survey design is the cost driver's biggest area of concern, and one they believe can be impacted by payer and providers. Those who take the survey will be able to prioritize their level of concern, how easily that

concern can be impacted, and how COVID-19 may change their prioritization. The PPW and HTCI will want to push this survey out to as many people as possible to get the best sampling.

**Rural & Frontier Healthcare Solutions Workgroup (RFHS) update** – *Larry Tisdale and Patt Richesin, RFHS Co-Chairs*

The RFHS determined the need to obtain and analyze the claims data for providers. In examining all the data points there is the need to appreciate the frailty of healthcare delivery. Data discussion meetings are scheduled with Medicaid and Comagine Health. These efforts will lay the groundwork for model development and support opportunities to seek and apply for grant opportunities that will assist rural and frontier areas with network development.

**Telehealth Task Force (TTF) update** – *Jenni Gudapati and Craig Belcher, TTF Co-Chairs*

The TTF has been very fortunate to have excellent presenters and subject matter experts participate in meetings. There has been participation from nearly all regions of Idaho with subject matter presentations and perspectives from across the state. The Idaho Department of Commerce, Broadband Council will present at the July meeting. Temporarily suspended policies and waivers issued due to the public health emergency have resulted in fewer barriers for telehealth delivery. As a reminder, the TTF plans to reconvene with HTCI to share their compiled set of recommendations.

**Discussion: Subject matter gaps and at-large membership** – *Led Dr. David Pate, HTCI Co-Chair*

HTCI has three seats available on the council. Having met for over a year now, the council is in good position to identify the gaps in expertise or knowledge that will advance HTCI's goals. Once those gaps are identified, HTCI can determine what type of subject matter expert can assist in filling that gap, and then recommend a specific person.

Suggestions from the members included:

- an individual with expertise in social determinants of health,
- another payer,
- an individual with consumer perspective,
- a representative from an underserved community,
- an individual with expertise in tracking and coordinating quality measurements,
- an individual with expertise in value-based healthcare and alternative payment models,
- an expert on reimbursement, with experience navigating clinical and financial environments,
- an individual from eastern Idaho,
- an expert on behavioral health, and
- an expert on oral health.

Members were invited to reach out to Mary Sheridan, Matt Walker, or Dr. Pate with further suggestions.

**Closing:** *Dr. Ted Epperly*

**Next Meeting:** Thursday July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Meeting Adjourned:** 04:45 p.m.