



September 2023 Monthly Report

August brought many agency updates and several newsworthy changes in staffing. Governor Little's long-time right-hand, Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Bobbi-Jo Meuleman, is departing the Governor's Office as she steps into the role of CEO and President of the Boise Metro Chamber. Bobbi-Jo is a longtime friend, and we are thrilled to have her at the helm of the Chamber. The Governor's Division of Financial Management (DFM) Administrator Alex Adams is now wearing a second hat as he stays at DFM and also takes the reins at the Charter Commission, as interim Director.

DFM is also saying farewell to David Fulkerson, a stalwart who has served in multiple leadership roles with the current and former administration and protected the state and its ratings through a recession and massive growth. Mr. Fulkerson is one of the most honest and hardworking people in the state and while we wish him well in his much-deserved retirement, Idaho is losing one of its best, most knowledgeable, and trusted servants.

Due to these changes, the Governor's office has brought in the current Administrator of the Division of Human Resources and Interim Director of Administration (DHR), Lori Wolff, into the new role of Director of Operations at the Governor's Office. Hayden Rogers, current Senior Political Advisor, will also be stepping up to become the new Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. To read Governor Little's full press release on the Office's staffing changes click [HERE](#).

The staff, and agency director shuffle will continue as DHR, Department of Administration, Charter Commission, and several other leadership positions in state government are filled in the coming days and weeks. We have been a part of many of these conversations on your behalf, and we will continue to work hard to develop and deepen relationships with decision-makers at every level in Idaho with special attention on these new leadership roles.

Rulemakings, board meetings, and interim meetings have continued throughout the month. The Medicaid Managed Care Task Force and the Federalism Committee are prime examples of this. These two committees have taken on major concepts to move into the next session, including statewide managed care plans, mandatory minimums, and leasing land for conservation. This is just the beginning of numerous difficult topics that will be debated by legislators during the 2024 Legislative Session.

Agency budget requests are due tomorrow, September 1, 2023, to DFM. With the state budget surplus being eliminated, we expect to see reduced budget requests and further expect to see agencies suffer decreases in programmatic and one-time funding. After budgets are initially reviewed, agencies will have until October 20, 2023, to make revisions if authorized. Between these two deadlines, we will continue working with key personnel to review budget requests.

Local elections are heating up. Candidates running for city council, mayor, and other local elected races have until Friday, September 8, 2023, to file. Election Day is on November 7, 2023. The preregistration deadline is October 13, 2023, and early voting will begin October 23, 2023.

As we continue meetings with legislators and agency leaders, we are constantly developing plans and finding new opportunities to achieve your goals. Now is the time to begin to develop your priorities with us for the 2024 Legislative Session to allow us to build a runway for your success. We will continue to create plans and goals for the next year to identify how we can exceed your expectations in the coming session and beyond.

In September, there are numerous events, conferences, and other times where we will hear from various groups regarding their ideas and priorities. This will continue our outreach and strategic planning to lead to success throughout the year. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out anytime. Our team looks forward to reaching your goals and advocating for you.

The administrative rules bulletin can be viewed [HERE](#).



NABIP September 2023 Highlights

On Wednesday, August 9th, the Medicaid Managed Care Task Force met to hear from a diverse group of stakeholders. Co-Chair Vander Woude did state that the Task Force is not looking for complaints, they are looking for solutions for reigning in the spending of Medicaid. The next meeting will be on August 31st and will include a conversation with the Task Force to start discussing priorities of what to include in a plan. Senator Cook wants a full rundown on the MCOs in Idaho including dental, dual eligible, and behavioral health. Administrator Charron offered to dive into the MCOs and Healthy Connections in Idaho, along with the contractors in Idaho. Stephanie, representing NABIP, was scheduled to offer input to the Task Force today with input given by the BB&A team; however, she was not present to give testimony.

On August 31st BB&A attended the Medicaid Managed Care Task Force meeting where they heard presentations from affected parties as well as presentations from various states on their Medicaid programs. The states that presented were Connecticut, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah and they spoke on their experiences with Medicaid and what practices they are implementing. Co-chair Vander Woude highlighted that the committee needs to start deciding what path the task force wants to go down and that they should start drafting legislation.