



November 2023 Monthly Report

As we move into November, agency budget requests and policies are finalized, and legislators are getting updated drafts of their bills. Many of the legislators we have worked with over the summer and early fall have started to run their revamped ideas to ground with stakeholders, other legislators, and agencies as the 2024 Idaho Legislative Session continues to creep up on everyone. Boise's downtown area is again full of lobbyists, bureaucrats, and legislators, compared to what we have seen throughout the summer, another key indicator that things are ramping up again.

This year, the pre-session meetings are coming even earlier than we typically see. There is a normal sense of urgency from legislators to be ready for the upcoming session, but this fall we have seen a heightened sense of nervousness and eagerness to deliver as all 105 legislators will be up for re-election in competitive primary elections in May 2024. This window is short especially as social issues and budget fights tend to draw out the legislative session, putting a disadvantage on incumbents who struggle to fundraise and campaign during the busy legislative proceedings.

One primary driver of this new urgency is JFAC posting agendas for meetings in early November to hear from selected agencies regarding their budget requests. These agencies include the State Department of Education, Idaho Department of Corrections, Medicaid, Colleges and Universities, Workforce Development Council, Idaho State Police, and Idaho Transportation Department. For detailed agendas for JFAC hearings, click [HERE](#).

These JFAC hearings are following the recent October 20, 2023, deadline the Division of Financial Management (DFM) placed on agencies for FY25 authorized budget request revisions. DFM is currently working through these changes, to finalize totals as soon as possible to prepare for JFAC members. A few JFAC members have already acknowledged this is not typical to do prior to the Legislative Session. This is a signal that the process and politics of policymaking during the 2024 Legislative Session are sure to be different and unique. How strange it gets before January is up to legislative leadership and as they say, only time will tell, but be assured Speaker Mike "King" Moyle will have his way before it's done.

In October, BB&A attended numerous meetings including boards, interim, rulemaking, and other policy-related public meetings to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information to you. The number of meetings continues to ramp up as we drift away from a part-time legislature and head into a new year.

In between the public meetings, we have increased our efforts to meet with legislators, department heads, and leadership in various offices. Keeping you ahead of the curve and helping you make informed decisions regarding legislation, rules, budgets, and politically driven issues remains paramount. This is the time when we can have the most effective quiet conversations to best triangulate for your interests. We also use this time to educate and advocate these leaders on who you are, and what your goals are.

As always, we are researching local city elections that will appear on the November 7th ballot next week. Sometimes the decisions that impact you most will be at the municipal and county level rather than the state or federal level. If you have any questions regarding these elections, please reach out to us and/or your local county elections office. And remember to vote!

As we continue to do outreach, BB&A encourages you to also make your own relationships and connections. We are happy to help make introductions and provide input on valuable individuals to help you get to know them. BB&A is dedicated to providing top-quality service to you, and we are here to help. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions, as you are hearing things, and as your priorities for the upcoming session become clearer.

For a full list of proposed and pending rules, click [HERE](#). To see upcoming public agency meetings, click [HERE](#).



NABIP November 2023 Highlights

On October 5th, the Medicaid Managed Care Task Force met to hear presentations from VCOs in the state. After this meeting, there is one more meeting on October 16th before the members will decide if more meetings will be needed. During the next meetings, more decisions will be held between task force members to determine the direction of Medicaid for the state of Idaho. They heard presentations from a few VCOs that operate in Idaho and their successes and challenges. The Co-Chairs highlighted that during the next meeting, the goal is to start thinking about what the Task Force would like to accomplish or share.

On October 12th, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare held a negotiated rulemaking meeting for IDAPA 16.03.18 – Medicaid Cost-Sharing. They stated that the main changes are simplifications and removing duplicative language between CFR and the Idaho Code. Toni Lawson with the Idaho Hospital Association voiced support for removing duplicative language but was concerned about why some sections were removed and others were not. No other public comments were made. Any public comments must be submitted by October 25, 2023.

On October 16th the Medicaid Managed Care Task Force met to provide the committee some time to discuss their questions, concerns, and thoughts. Co-Chair VanOrden opened the meeting by discussing [HCR 9](#) to remind the committee of the intentions and goals of the committee. In the beginning, they heard the report from Sellars Dorsey which included recommendations, IDHW Division of Medicaid, OPE, MCOs, VCOs, and managed care contractors from various states. Co-Chair VanOrden also mentioned that she would like to hear from the organizations that would be affected whom they haven't heard from yet, she would like to hear from the school districts on school-based Medicaid. She then turned the floor to questions or comments that others might have.

The Co-Chairs would like to see a standing committee created to continue this once the task force is over. They would like it written into the bill that the chairs of both health and welfare committees remain as co-chairs. Co-Chair Vander Woude would like to hear about the cap rate and PBMs and the benefits or drawbacks of this. Throughout the meeting, the committee seemed to favor the existing VCO model with a few suggestions and guardrails. There will be another meeting on Tuesday, November 7th where they will hear from Idaho VCOs, school-based Medicaid, and various issues regarding pharmacies.

BB&A met with Toni Lawson with the Idaho Hospital Association to have conversations about Medicaid and behavioral health and strengthen the working relationship.