

**WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**  
**JOINT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**  
*FINAL REPORT*

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**2014- 2015 Interims**

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Delegate Ruth Rowan  
Delegate Kelli Sobonya

**Final Report of**  
**JOINT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

The Joint Committee on Health was established and appointed by the Joint Committee on Government and Finance, following the 2014 Regular Session of the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislature. The committee was assigned the following resolutions and topics for study during the course of the 2014-2015 Interim Period:

- Study the expansion of the medicaid aged and disabled waiver program.
- Study substance abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation including permitting first responders to use Naloxone and the creation of a good samaritan law to protect a person of certain misdemeanor when reporting overdoses.
- HCR114 - Requesting a study on whether to create a statutory option for persons with health coverage to fill prescriptions through any pharmacy.
- HCR121 - Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to study the possible effects on insurance billing.
- HCR59 - Urging the Governor to direct the Bureau of Senior Services to issue a report on the needs for in-home care.
- SCR95 - Requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance study long-term care planning.

The committee **REPORTS** as follows:

**ASSIGNED STUDY TOPICS**

**Study the expansion of the medicaid aged and disabled waiver program**

The committee took no action.

**Study substance abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation including permitting first responders to use Naloxone and the creation of a good samaritan law to protect a person of certain misdemeanors when reporting overdoses.**

The committee heard from Dr. Dan Foster, Chairman, Kanawha County Substance Abuse Task Force. Dr. Foster provided the committee with an update of the task force's recommendations.

The committee **RECOMMENDS FOR PASSAGE** during the 2015 legislative session the following:

- A bill which permits emergency responders, state police, sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and

volunteer and paid firefighters to carry and administer an opioid antagonist in an emergency, to respond to instances of opiate overdose.

- A bill which provides immunity from certain offenses for a person who seeks health care for someone or for him or herself who is experiencing an overdose.

**HCR114 - Requesting a study on whether to create a statutory option for persons with health coverage to fill prescriptions through any pharmacy.**

The committee took no action.

**HCR121 - Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to study the possible effects on insurance billing.**

The committee heard testimony from Dr. James Becker, Medical Director, WV Bureau for Medical Services and Dr. Tracy Hendershot, CMO Wirt County Health Services. Dr. Becker and Dr. Hendershot discussed Medicaid reimbursement for primary care physicians.

The Committee **RECOMMENDS** that **NO ACTION** be taken on this resolution.

**HCR59 - Urging the Governor to direct the Bureau of Senior Services to issue a report on the needs for in-home care**

The committee took no action.

**SCR95 - Requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance study long-term care planning**

The committee took no action.

At this time, the Committee **RECOMMENDS** that **NO ACTION** be taken on this resolution.

**MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES**

The committee heard from Karen Villanueva-Matkovich, General Counsel, DHHR and Lydia C. Milnes, Attorney, Mountain State Justice in regards to the Hartley litigation.

The committee heard from Robert Knittle, Executive Director, WV Board of Medicine. Mr. Knittle discussed the current law and policy regarding telemedicine.

The committee heard from Randy Shearer, Patients, Physicians, Pharmacists Fighting

Diversion (PPPF). Mr. Shearer discussed the impact of the current pain clinic rule on drug diversion as it relates to PPPFD.

The committee heard from Melissa Kinnaird, Bureau for Public Health, DHHR. Ms. Kinnaird discussed threat preparedness in regards to Ebola.

The committee heard from Tom Buban, Cisco; Christopher S. Goode, MD, FACEP, Emergency Physician Bridgeport; Jim Martin, CEO, CityNet for a demonstration on Telemedicine

These presentations were informational in nature. No actions are necessary.

**The committee recommends for passage during the 2015 legislative session the following:**

- A bill which allows expedited partner therapy. This bill would allow a healthcare provider to prescribe an antibiotic for the sexual partner or partners of a patient they are treating for a sexually transmitted disease without first having to conduct an examination of the partner or partners in cases where the patient presents with a sexually transmitted disease.

Respectfully submitted:

Senator Ron Stollings  
Co-Chair

Delegate Don Perdue  
Co-Chair