



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on Health and Human Resources

Minutes for March 19, 2025, 4:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Health and Human Resources met on March 19, 2025, 4:00 PM, in the House East Wing Committee Room 215-E.

Members present: Delegates Amos, Chiarelli, Clark, Dean, Drennan, Hall, Hamilton, Heckert, Hite, Jeffries, Lewis, Mazzocchi, Miller, Petitto, Pushkin, Rohrbach, Smith, Stephens, Vance, Worrell.

Members absent: Delegates Anders, Burkhammer, Masters, Pinson, Willis.

A silent roll call being taken, the presence of a quorum was established.

On motion of Delegate Jeffries, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Chair Hite recognized Delegate Hall to explain HB 2575 Relating to the establishment of a full-time Dementia Services Director position (recommendation 2nd REF FIN). Delegate Hall answered questions of the committee. Chair Hite recognized Delegate Pushkin, for the purpose of a leave of committee request, of the Department of Health. There was no one from the Dept. of Health available. Chair Hite recognized and swore in Kathy Cosco, Marshall Health Network. Ms. Cosco spoke in favor of HB 2575 and answered questions of the committee. Chair Hite recognized and swore in Daniel Kimble, West Virginia University. Mr. Kimble spoke in support of HB 2575 and members did not have questions. Chair Hite recognized and swore in Sharon Covert, Executive Director, Alzheimer's Association, Co-Chair Dementia Task Force. Ms. Covert spoke on the work the association does in all 55 counties in West Virginia and the need for this bill and the much-needed position it would create. Ms. Covert answered questions of the committee. Chair Hite recognized and swore in Jeanne Caldwell, Alzheimer's Association Volunteer and Advocate. Chair Hite advanced HB 2575 to markup.

Chair Hite recognized and swore in Christina Mullins, Deputy Secretary, of Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders. Ms. Mullins spoke about gaps in substance use recovery. Ms. Mullins answered questions of the committee.

Chair Hite recognized and swore in Emily Birckhead, Executive Director, West Virginia Recovery Residence Association. Ms. Birckhead answered questions of the committee.

Chair Hite recognized and swore in Joe Deegan, Recovery Councilor, St. Francis Hospital. Mr. Deegan answered questions of the committee.

On Motion of Delegate Jeffries the committee adjourned.

Michael Hite

Committee Chair

Martha White

Administrator/Clerk