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Advocating for Kids

Request for Support: Restoring Medicaid Healthy Connections Case Management

Dear Colleagues,

I am reaching out to Idaho's primary care community—family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine, FQHCs, and health systems alike—to request your review and support of **draft legislation to reinstate Medicaid Healthy Connections case management** funding from **January 1, 2026 until the start of the managed care (MCO) transition anticipated to be completed in 2029**.

As you know, the impending elimination of Healthy Connections case management will disrupt care coordination and add strain on clinics serving Idahoans. Reinstating this support—on a temporary but essential basis—will sustain the infrastructure that keeps primary care accessible during this transition period. We understand that a strong primary care system with access to care is essential to the health of Idahoans and fiscal health of the state.

We invite you to:

1. **Review the draft legislation** outlining the proposed reinstatement of Health Connections case management.
2. **Read a case study from Pocatello Children's Clinic**, illustrating the impact of the funding loss on care coordination and outcomes.
3. **Add your practice or organization name in support** of this legislative effort for inclusion in the 2025 legislative session.

You can access all materials and the sign-on form through the following link:

<https://form.jotform.com/252935267272059>

Our shared mission is to ensure that Idaho's Medicaid patients continue to receive coordinated, high-quality primary care throughout this transition. Your organization's voice—whether part of a large system, an FQHC, or an independent practice—makes a difference.

Thank you for your ongoing service to Idaho families and for standing together in support of patient-centered primary care.

With appreciation,

Brian C Birch, MD FAAP
birch.md@tvkidsclinic.com

Advocating for Kids

St. Luke's Grand Rounds/Pediatric Emergency Conference Speaker Thank You

Thank you to Dr. Chris Buresh and Dr. Thomas Agostini for outstanding presentations.

The Idaho Chapter of the AAP extends our sincere thanks to Drs. Chris Buresh and Thomas Agostini for their exceptional presentations at St. Luke's Grand Rounds and the Pediatric Emergency Conference in McCall on October 9.

Their timely and informative discussions on teens and opioids reached more than 225 pediatric providers across Idaho, offering critical insights into this ongoing public health challenge.

A key takeaway from their sessions: when prescribing an opioid to a pediatric patient, always send the family home with Narcan – and remember that all of us should carry Narcan. Just as we know CPR, it's a simple, life-saving step that can make all the difference.



Spotlight on a Chapter Member

Dr. Joyce Gilbert Recognition

Dr. Joyce Gilbert was awarded the Outstanding Service to Maltreated Children award from Council on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Dr. Gilbert is medical director, Providence Abuse Intervention Center in Lacey, Washington, and is involved in educational outreach across Washington State, training Department of Children, Youth and Families staff, law enforcement, medical professionals and school personnel on recognizing and responding to child abuse.

Dr. Gilbert worked in Idaho at Sandpoint Pediatrics for years, and we want to congratulate her on this award and thank her for her many years providing care to children.

Healthy Mental Development (HMD) Chapter Champion Recruitment

AAP is recruiting Healthy Mental Development (HMD) Chapter Champions. For more information [click here](#).

Social Media Update

Social Media Snapshot - October

Our social media presence continues to grow — slow and steady! In our second month live, we gained 24 new followers, reached over 1,900 views, and received 65 interactions (likes, shares, saves, comments, and replies). These numbers are consistent with last month's performance, showing a stable start and steady engagement.

This month also marked the beginning of a new series, Trustworthy Tuesdays, where we highlight AAP pediatricians and health professionals who actively share credible content online. Our second post became our most-viewed post yet, reaching 395 views, and even caught the attention of Dr. Ari Brown, who followed and commented on the post — a great boost to our credibility and visibility!

On the Linktree front, I have given it a refresh! It now mirrors the layout of our Instagram page, making it easier for followers to find content connected to specific posts. Help keep the momentum going! Please follow and share our socials with your networks. Growing our audience is essential to making this work meaningful. Every follow and share helps our content reach more Idaho families — and that's how we make a real difference. It would be awesome if we could outperform the numbers from this month in November. Help me make it happen!

And lastly, your input matters! Please feel free to share any ideas or content you think would make our social media even better. I would love to make your ideas or suggestions come to life.

Instagram: @idahoapeds

Facebook: Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Isabel Edwards

Reach me at: izzoblue10@gmail.com

National Perinatal Association 2026 Interdisciplinary Conference

2026 INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE



UNITING for IMPACT

Advancing Rural-Urban
Collaboration and Innovation
in Perinatal and Infant Health



Please accept this invitation to [JOIN US](#) for our
2026 Interdisciplinary Conference

UNITING for IMPACT

**Advancing Rural-Urban Collaboration and Innovation
in Perinatal and Infant Health**

March 25 - 27, 2026
in [Coeur d'Alene, Idaho](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

Inflammatory Brain Disorders Conference 2026



**INFLAMMATORY BRAIN DISORDERS
CONFERENCE 2026**

Hosted by Neuroimmune Institute in partnership with Neuroimmune Foundation
and accredited in collaboration with The Wisconsin Medical Society.

MAY 14 - 15, 2026

A live CME event via webinar
CME details on neuroimmuneinstitute.org

500 fee waivers available for MDs/DOs/NPs/PAs!



Resources

WIC Document

Randi Scrima, the Breastfeeding Coordinator for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, advised us there was some incorrect formula information online, and wanted to provide us with the current information that can be accessed with the link below:

<https://publicdocuments.dhw.idaho.gov/WebLink/DocView.aspx?id=4465&dbid=0&repo=PUBLIC-DOCUMENTS>

Keeping Children Safe

Review of 2023 Non-MVA Accidents and Homicides

The Child Fatality Review Team reviewed deaths caused by 15 non-vehicular accidents, 4 homicides, and 3 deaths of undetermined cause occurring in 2023.

Causes of **accidental deaths** included attack by multiple dogs, inhalation of compressed air, acute fentanyl intoxication, accidental gunshot wound, house fire, 3 drownings (1 child, 2 adolescents), blunt force injury to head by horse, blunt force trauma to head by falling tree (2), hyperthermia in locked car.

Homicides included murder/suicide by parent, revenge shooting of family by neighbor, murder of child and parent by parent, gunshot wound to head (homicide versus accident).

Undetermined cause cases included blunt force head injuries/felony injury to child (likely abusive), vehicular suicide versus accident, possible seizure/true cause unknown.

Risk factors included lack of supervision or situational awareness in multiple cases, easy access to unlocked and loaded firearms, delay in calling 911, and language barriers. Also noted were 3 cases with no coroner report and lack of coordination between rescue groups.

Recommendations:

1. Parents should be aware of animals' risk of unpredictable, erratic behavior and teach/supervise children accordingly: "Dogs bite and horses kick". It was noted that in 2024, St Lukes saw one horse injury per month.
2. Unused cars should be locked and keys safely stored.
3. Some of the accidents occurred at the home of grandparents who may be more indulgent and less directive with a child or may not have their home fully childproofed. One suggestion: Install proper security locks on windows and doors so that a small child cannot leave the home unsupervised.
4. Keep guns unloaded and locked (away from ammunition). It should be noted that as of 2025, foster parents are no longer required to demonstrate safe gun storage, though information is offered to them. The CFRT will remain vigilant for any increase in gun-related accidents in further reviews.
5. Siblings of child victims should be referred for counseling; survivor support groups could be considered.
6. Rescue groups are encouraged to communicate and coordinate rescue efforts.
7. In the case of serious injury, 911 should be activated immediately.

Book Corner

My One-of-a-Kind Body by Whitney Casares, MD, MPH, FAAP

Help children discover that all bodies are good bodies – especially their own?

My One-of-a-Kind Body helps kids aged 7-12 embrace their own bodies, appreciate others' differences, and learn to take care of the only body they've got. With colorful, inclusive illustrations and age-appropriate language, *My One-of-a-Kind Body* invites children to explore the incredible ways their bodies help them learn, play, and grow.