

REGION II  
*Behavioral Health Board*

Website: [riibhb.idaho.publichealth.com](http://riibhb.idaho.publichealth.com)

**MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

**December 12, 2019-- 1:30 PM**

Public Health Building – First Floor Conference Room

**Conference Phone Number: 208-748-0414; Conference Room Number: 7002#;**

**Conference Pin Number: 7002#**

Roll Call, Welcome, and Introductions

**Board Members**

X	Sara Bennett		Darrell Keim	x	Lisa Martin		Jenny Teigen
X	Lisa Bomley		Diane Kovach	X	Mike Ponzozzo	x	Glenda Thomson
	Megan Comstock		Shari Kuther	X	Jim Rehder		
X	Kathy Connerley		Kathie LaFortune		John Rusche	x	Dean Allen
	Beverly Fowler	x	Tom Lamar	x	Teresa Shackelford		Todd Hurt
	Chris Goetz	x	Deborah Lind	x	Jennifer Shuffield		
X	Sharlene Johnson	x	Tammy Lish-Watson		Skye Taylor		

**Others In Attendance:** Tammy Everson, David Nelson, Joshua Gartell, Rose Jackson, Thyra Stevenson, Bill Goesling, Stephanie Biedman. **By Phone:** Jen Griffis, Mya Ledgerwood

**Approval of November BHB Minutes:** Motion to Approve: Mike Ponzozzo; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Teresa Shackelford; **Motion carried.**

State Legislators were invited to attend today’s meeting; three state legislators were present including: Sen. David Nelson, Rep. Thyra Stevenson and Rep. Bill Goesling. Each subcommittee was invited to discuss the priorities and progress of their committees. These reports included:

**Housing Subcommittee:** Tammy Lish-Watson reported the housing committee meets every other month and has prioritized increasing availability of warming shelter and improving access to housing. Lisa Martin emphasized housing continues to be an issue, if not a crisis. She expressed concern for the lack of affordable housing and an increase in homelessness.

**Adult Behavioral Health:** Teresa Shackelford discussed concerns regarding the shortage of master’s level behavioral health providers. This shortage has been particularly noted as preparation for Medicaid expansion has taken effect. This committee has explored several ideas to address this workforce issue including looking at how to bring back educational programs which educate these professionals. Additionally, this subcommittee has explored the use of a mobile application to help increase public access to mental health resources, however funding for this has been an issue. Mrs. Shackelford also provided an update on upcoming changes in regional mental health services which include responsive services geared toward reducing and addressing mental health crisis. This will include partnerships with law enforcement and onsite

response, as needed. Additionally, Mrs. Shackelford discussed shortages in available prescribers and transportation needs for individuals with mental health needs. Moving forward this subcommittee will be focusing on identifying a HIPPA compliant texting application to increase communication and increasing community support for CIT. She feels this will help promote a team approach which would be in greater adherence to the fidelity of the CIT model. Crisis centers updates were also provided including that the regional dispersed model has been working effectively for the rural population.

**Children's Mental Health:** Jennifer Shuffield provided an overview of this subcommittee's objectives which include increasing access to specialty services for youth and increasing providers for rural areas. This subcommittee identified concern regarding the low number of beds available for youth in need of acute hospitalization and long wait times for youth to access services due to bed shortages. The CMH subcommittee has discussed initiating a community needs assessment to gain better understanding of the community needs related to children's services, including potential training needs for the next year.

**Prevention committee:** Sharleen Johnson provided a re-cap of the work the prevention subcommittee has engaged in over the last year. This included obtaining a Partnership for Success grant which has focused on reducing underage drinking in target populations (youth, Native Americans). This subcommittee has developed and dispersed a number of media campaigns focus on not riding in a vehicle with impaired drivers and education on binge drinking. Additionally, the Prevention Committee has provided a Strengthening Families facilitator's training, has distributed Detera Drug Deactivation System packets, provided 45 scholarships for youth to attend an event, provided mental health screenings and assisted school districts with offering drug free activities. Next year, this committee is seeking to work on various public health media campaigns, including one focused on keeping youth safe during prom season.

**Telehealth:** Dean Allen provided this subcommittee's overview which included recent efforts to secure a training for behavioral health professionals to gain competencies in providing services via telehealth. This subcommittee partnered with Idaho mental health association and public health to offer this training, which is comprised of two sessions: January 24, 2020 and March 20, 2020 at Gritman Hospital. 9:00-4:30 PM. It is expected that this grant funded training will be helpful in increasing the current capacity for providing mental health counseling in rural areas. Mr. Allen expressed concern regarding lack of broadband availability and lack of clinician shortages. Potentially partnering with community organizations, such as libraries may be helpful to increase access to both broadband for a better access to these sites. Senator Nelson advised that Mr. Allen may wish to consider partnerships with other organizations as well due to his knowledge of a recent effort to partner with libraries being unsuccessful.

**Legislative update:** Tom Lamar provided the top 4 issues for Region 2 which included **Fully Implement Medicaid Expansion**. Additional **Recovery Center Funding**. Mr. Lamar reports both Nez Perce and Latah County Commissions have assisted with partial funding, but funds will continue to be needed on the state level to successfully continue these efforts. **Funding for Housing Study** and **Fund Study to determine effectiveness of Recovery Centers**.

Other Legislative issues to consider: Funding for a **BH Phone App** to have easy access to help. Support for **improved Broadband** in rural/frontiers areas of Idaho. A huge need for **Psychiatric Youth Residential treatment** and develop **BH Resources for Teenagers** in Idaho. **Maintain Medicaid Enrollment for those arrested & jailed but not convicted of crimes.** Maximize **Federal Funds for Opiate and other Drug treatment** programs.

Mr. Lamar updated the board on a recent interaction with a community member who experienced difficulty signing up for Medicaid. 47 thousand signups have been completed thus far, however offices are about 10 days behind in helping address the Medicaid sign up and this has generated some frustration. Lisa Martin added concern regarding the recent discovery that only about **50% of specialty court participants have been found Medicaid eligible; it was expected that approximately 97% of this population would receive coverage.**

**Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)**--Tom Lamar reports the League of Women voters recently completed a report related to and would like to move it forward for legislative support. It is expected the LWV will draft a letter and try to seek action moving forward. With the intent to improve outcomes related to ACES. Lisa Bomley provided a brief overview of the history of the ACES Study and how its findings have been used to support trauma informed practices across schools.

Following the subcommittee's updates, each legislator provided an overview of their respective committees and priorities:

**Rep. Stevenson:** Rep. Stevenson sits on the Agriculture Affairs, Business, Revenue and Taxation and the Work Force Committee. She identified addressing issues related to burning, occupational licenses, transportation, revenue from online purchases tax and funding of Medicaid expansion which she states has been a challenging discussion topic.

**Rep. Goesling:** Rep. Goesling sits on the Education, Agriculture Affairs, Judiciary & Rules committees. He is currently focused on addressing grandparent visitation rights, Veteran outreach and educational issues related to at-risk youth. He reports there have been some unexpected consequences related to Medicaid expansion, including physicians experiencing less hands-on work which could jeopardize medical students to seeking out of state education resulting in potential reduction in later workforce.

**Sen. Nelson:** Sen. Nelson sits on the Health and Welfare Committee, Transportation and Agricultural Affairs. He is currently working to address Medicaid expansion efforts. Funding has been a concern, however he believes accessing the Wayfair fund may be helpful. Sen. Nelson also expressed concern regarding children's mental health as CHIP coverage for these youth has gone down resulting in less youth having insurance coverage. He feels we need to see improvement in insurance coverage for youth and he is exploring the possibility of extending coverage to 255% above poverty level as has been done in other states. Medicaid reimbursement in skilled nursing facilities is another area that he is concerned with as lower reimbursement can result in lower quality care.

### Public Input:

- **Medicaid Reimbursement:** Medicaid reimbursement for specific services including substance use assessments (GAIN), reimbursement for mental health services and how reimbursement rates impact the ability for providers to provide services.
- **Medicaid Coverage:** Many individuals will be able to have access to health care and physical health care following their release from incarceration. These individuals are now being pre-qualified, so they can have access to coverage following their release.
- **Skilled Nursing Gaps:** Nursing home residents are being displaced from skilled nursing facilities due to lack of specialty services. Currently, no Idaho codes address dementia related holds and overall services for this population are lacking. As a result, some patients with dementia have remained at local hospitals for several weeks. Potential solutions identified by the group included amending state surveyor rules for governing skilled nursing facilities and increasing funding, including reimbursements.
- **Workforce:** Mia Ledgerwood asked if consideration has been given to increasing workforce capacity through efforts which use non-degreed individuals under the supervision of licensed professionals. Rep. Gosling requested a follow up email to look into this issue further.
- **Medicaid Assets Limits:** Asset limits for individuals receiving Medicaid was discussed. Currently, individuals 55 and older can have a lien placed on their home, if they have assets in excess of what is listed in rule.
- **Transparency of Hospital Related Costs:** Rep. Goesling reported he would like to see improvement in the transparency of costs related to hospital services. Currently, these costs are only known after services are rendered and he would like improve the transparency in this area so consumers can be aware of these costs in advance. This is being explored and may result in some push back as it could have more accountability, however this could be promising.
- **Workforce:** Need for masters level programs in the area it was clarified that there are no current masters level programs for social workers or counselors in the area.

### I. **Next BHB Meeting: January 9, 2020**