

REGION II
Behavioral Health Board

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

December 16, 2021-- 2:30 PM

Zoom Conference Meeting due to COVID-19 restrictions

website: www.riibhb.idahopublichealth.com

Zoom Conference Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87403854240?pwd=amRZSlg0dXFzVGx3Y2FIVUF2WDZDUT09>

1. Roll Call, Welcome, and Introductions

Board Members

	Sara Bennett	x	Darrell Keim		Lisa Martin	x	Michael Wraith
	Terema Carlin	x	Diane Kovach	x	Michelle Mendenhall		
x	Megan Comstock	x	Shari Kuther	x	Mike Ponzozzo		
	Kathy Connerley	x	Kathie LaFortune	x	Jim Rehder	x	Dean Allen
x	Beverly Fowler	x	Tom Lamar	x	John Rusche		Dustin Hibbard
x	Chris Goetz	x	Deborah Lind		Skye Taylor	x	Theresa Shackelford
x	Sharlene Johnson		Pam Lopardo	x	Jenny Teigen		

Others In Attendance: Senators Carl Crabtree, David Nelson and Robert Blair; Representatives Caroline Nilsson Troy, Brandon Mitchell, Mike Kingsley, Lori McCann.

Joyce Lyons, Laura Thayer, Shaun Hollace, Lana Schuerman, Caitlin Rusche, Shaun Hollace, Zlata Myr, Kelsi Banta, Tammy Lish-Watson, Amanda Holcomb, Kaylie Bednarczyk, Karen Kopf, Michelle McMenemy

2. Approval of November BHB Minutes (Action Item): Motion to approve made by Tom Lamar, seconded by Darrell Keim. No discussion. Motion passed

3. Subcommittee and program brief reports—3 minutes or less:

– **Reg 2 Recovery Centers—Darrell/Shawn** – Darrell reported the Latah Recovery Center is one of 9 throughout the state. Latah offers recovery coaching/peer support, weekly support group meetings, crisis support counseling, re-entry from incarceration, local radio station/podcast, Vandal recovery at University of Idaho, harm reduction through safe needle exchange, naloxone and condoms. They partner with the rural crisis center in Latah County. Monthly they have 816 client contacts per month, up 22% from last year. Currently offer 60 recovery coach sessions per month and about 190 volunteer hours monthly. Darrell was able to share two success stories.

– **Reg 2 Dispersed Crisis Center model—Joyce L** – Joyce Lyons reported the crisis centers are located at A-Z in Orofino, Riverside Recovery in Lewiston and in the Latah Recovery Center in Moscow with Scott Community care providing the services. January – September there were 264 clients and in November there were 89 client contacts, representing an increase in client contacts. Joyce reports the crisis centers are economical as the centers are not staffed full-time but on an as needed basis. Joyce is working on the end of year sustainability plan.

--**Children’s Mental Health—Laura/Cindy** – Laura reported they have been focused on adding resources to providers, discussing ways to build resources in the future. They are focused on finding ways for Master’s programs to be introduced into the community.

--**Adult Behavioral Health—Shari/Pam** - Shari provided a handout. She reports they focused on Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for Law enforcement, helped share the Aunt Burtha website for resources, have discussed how to support increasing providers and telehealth services. Telehealth provided training to 20 individuals, created a registry for the Idaho Counseling website, encouraged better broadband and an interstate contract. Currently asking for support for the following identified needs; shortage of masters trained professionals and evaluating telehealth options to offset this shortage, and to increase the fee schedule for rural providers, competency restoration and expanding telehealth accessibility in hosting with local libraries with continued reimbursement support. Needs and gaps identified are transportation and the nursing shortage for mental health facilities.

–**Housing—Lisa/Shawn** - Idaho housing and finance has funding for preventing homelessness. Adult resource warming shelter opens tonight. Union Gospel Mission has set a goal to open early next year. First Step 4 life recovery house has been going for 1 year and they have helped 46 with housing funds.

–**Prevention—Sharlene** – Sharlene Johnson is the prevention specialist. The subcommittee is focused on Partnership for Success Grant to decrease underage drinking and methamphetamine use. Offering a monthly webinar, community trainings, Doterra packets and numerous campaigns.

– **Legislative—Kathie**--Kathie LaFortune identified the following priorities: more stable and consistent funding for the local recovery centers, legislative action for fentanyl testing strips, local Masters in Social Work (MSW) program at LCSC and UI, loan forgiveness programs for local providers, continue to fund and support Medicaid expansion and addressing the youth mental health surge.

4. Individual Legislator introduction and list committee assignments—3 minutes;

--**Senators Crabtree, Nelson and Johnson; Representatives Nilsson Troy, Mitchell, Kingsley, McCann.**
Senator Crabtree – Serves on the Transportation, Education and JFAC (vice chair) committees. He is focused on dyslexia this upcoming year. The finances in the state are extraordinary and fortunate. They are going to focus on capital improvements, catching up on deferred maintenance, pay down debts and

expand ongoing expenses. He understands the nursing needs, recovery center ongoing funding struggles, and increasing broadband in rural Idaho.

Senator Nelson - Serves on Agricultural Affairs, Education and Transportation committees. He also serves on the Idaho behavioral health council this past year and developed the strategic plan and are working on implementation. They have 8 main focuses they are working towards. Next meeting in January. Working with numerous groups to increase the use of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE'S) across the state.

Senator Blair: (Substituting for Senator Johnson) Serves on ag, resources and education committees. He reports he has been focused on addressing dyslexia across the state. He is focused on learning about the different departments and entities across the state.

Representative Nillsson Troy: Serves on JFAC (vice chair on the house side), judiciary, and judiciary and rules committees. She is currently focused on securing the Opioid settlement funds and protecting the funds.

Representative Mitchell: Serves on the Health and Welfare, transportation and business.

Representative Kingsley: Serves on the Health and Welfare, commerce and human resources and local government (vice chair) committees. He supports recovery centers and their ongoing funding. He is going to be working on fentanyl testing strips and getting them into recovery centers.

Representative McCann: Serves on education, agriculture and commerce and human resources committees. She reports education is a passion of hers and she is worried about a push to cut funding. She wants to focus on helping our young kids ready for school. Interested in mental health with youth regarding suicide prevention. In ag she is working with cattle ranchers on the fire season, veterinarian training for Idaho students at WSU. She reports she is also concerned about our liquor laws.

5. Board discussion with legislators to learn expectations for Behavioral Health this year in the Legislature and what are the main issues Legislators see will take the most time in the 2022 Legislature:

John Rusche identified 3 things: harm reduction efforts, funding recovery centers, and the behavioral health profession workforce. Jim Rehder discussed the individuals incarcerated that are struggling with mental health disorders. Historically, the offender population has 85%+ with substance use disorder and 35%+ with mental illness on psychotropic medications.

Representative McCann discussed the housing shortage and how mental health issues can be reviewed with a landlord. She discussed the benefits of the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team and how effective she felt it was in the past. Mike Wraith reported that ACT teams are still available within the community. Lori discussed her support for Master's level training programs in the behavioral health field.

Shaun Hollace shared a couple success stories from the Recovery Center.

Jenny Tiegen discussed the decriminalization of having the fentanyl strips and the Narcan. Darrell reported he was unaware of the wording. Representative Kingsley discussed the difficulty of the paraphernalia laws and working with prosecutors. Jim Rehder discussed the benefit of having

prosecutors involved in the behavioral health efforts. The Prosecutors are the gatekeepers to the jails and prisons.

Senator Crabtree closed by discussing his role with JFAC and efforts to make change.

Senator Nelson closed by discussing the importance of stabilizing the recovery centers.

Representative Nilsson Troy closed by discussion recovery center funding through the Opioid settlement.

Representative Kingsley closed by reinforcing his efforts discussed earlier.

Representative Mitchell closed by discussing his relationships with other representatives and how he will work with them to address behavioral health needs.

Representative McCann closed by offering to work with Children's mental health.

6. Next BHB Meeting – January 13, 2022

7. Meeting Adjourn: 3:35pm