

Region II Mental Health Board  
2014 Year in Review Report

- 2014 MHB legislative priorities: 1. Medicaid expansion; 2. BH transformation; 3. Crisis Centers
- 2014 Behavior Health Significant legislation passed:
  - S1224a—Transformation became law on 3/1/14 effective 7/1/14;
  - S1362—Psychiatrist recruitment loan forgiveness program for State Hospitals
  - S1352—Established one (1) crisis center—eventually located in Idaho Falls
  - S1357—Justice Reinvestment Act to reduce prison population by community treatment
  - H519—Mentally ill transport (Shackle legislation); improved transport conditions
  - HCR046—Established Tele-health council to develop standards
- Reg. II Behavioral Health Board established 7/1/14 and officers elected 7/10/14
- Idaho Youth Treatment Grant (4yrs) for Transitional Age Youth (TAY) for region II and IV.
- Idaho Access to Recovery (ATR IV) awarded--\$7.8 million for 3yrs for SUD & recovery services.
- Recovery Organization Training provided (six from Reg II attended); **Recovery Idaho** created
- Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) provided to 35 Region II participants **at a cost of approximately \$8000 from local donors.**
- State Healthcare Innovation Plan (SHIP) grant awarded to assess mental & physical health together—requested \$61 million, awarded \$40 million (need to verify this number).
- Region II BHB subcommittees formed thus far: Budget, By-law, Children’s Mental Health (CMH), Adult Mental Health (AMH), Needs & Gaps, Legislative
- **BHB Bylaws drafted**
- BHB website converted and maintained—[bhb2.dhw.idaho.gov](http://bhb2.dhw.idaho.gov)
- Exploring grant writing opportunities
- Letter sent to Rep Rusche on lack of Tele-mental health services; continuing work for tele-health
- 2014-15 Needs & Gaps document prepared and will be sent to legislators and other stakeholders
- Continue to monitor and discuss Medicaid managed care—Optum. **Hosted “Optum Performance” feedback session in October**
- Beginning new research project to improve the Legislative Impact survey provided the past 3 yrs. WSU professor, Dr. David Makin, will work with LCSC professor, Eleanor Downey on this project
- A ruling on Jeff D lawsuit should dramatically improve Children’s Mental Health Services
- **Annual “Hands Across the Bridge” event hosted for approximately 120 people in recovery**
- **Informed of a secure, economical way to provide telemental health in rural Idaho via a company called Virtual Care Works**
- Legislators visited with the Behavior Health Board on December 18, 2014 – key topics: Medicaid expansion, crisis centers and mental health funding. Information provided to the legislators included.
- Latah County Recovery Center community support event--Dec 2, 2014--more than 90 people attended.

**2015 BHB Legislative Priorities:**

- Medicaid Expansion
- Tele-Health access and service for rural Idaho
- Recovery Community Center placement in Latah County funded by Millennium funds
- Block grants to improve community services
- Crisis & Recovery Centers/Social Detox Centers
- Post Adoption Services for SED children
- CIT training remains a high priority
- Suicide Hot Line improvements