

Region II Behavioral Health Board

2020 Year in Review

2020 Legislative Priorities:

- Medicaid Expansion was fully implemented in the 2020 legislative session—Our BHB’s number one priority.
- Executive Order establishing BH Council supported by the Judicial and Legislative branch on Feb 19, 2020.
- HB342—enables innovation in healthcare technology by removing unnecessary and artificial statutory barriers and clarifies terms.
- HJM-013—Legislature requests amendment to 21 USC 823 which apparently was approved to provide widespread use of Suboxone (buprenorphine) to alleviate withdrawal symptoms in patients suffering from opioid addiction.
- In June, Gov Little issued an executive order to loosen rules to allow certified Drug & Alcohol Counselors, Case Managers, Peer Support Specialists, Recover Coaches and Licensed Masters Social Workers to provide reimbursable Telehealth Services.

- Covid 19 forced the BHB to meet via Zoom starting in April. Board members like the format and attendance has risen.
- “Launching into Cyberspace Therapy” workshops for counselors through LC Valley Health grant Jan 20 and Mar 20. Chair Dean Allen and telehealth subcommittee applied for the grant—the second session was conducted via video due to Covid.
- BHB supported Point in Time Homeless count the last week of January.
- Reg. 2 Rural Crisis Center Network continues to develop with increasing partnerships in Lewiston, Moscow and Orofino; Grangeville site is not yet established due to lack of professional resources. Lewiston sponsor First Step 4 Life chose not to continue crisis center work. Riverside Recovery has assumed the sponsorship and operation.
- Zoe Cooley was chosen as R2 Mental Health award for 2020.
- ICADD conference was cancelled in the spring of 2020; a virtual ICADD was held in September 2020.
- Recovery Centers received \$55k from Governor budget and \$45k from H&W IROC grant. Darrell Keim elected chair of Recovery Idaho. Norma Jaeger continues as Director of Recovery Idaho.
- Financially supported Latah Recovery Festival, Kamiah drug/alcohol free youth community days event, and Lewiston --- Recovery Center Hope and Grace event for \$500 ea.
- Former BHB member Jennifer Griffis and Sen Nelson were appointed by Gov Little to the newly created BH Council.
- Subcommittee chairs appointed in bold—several committees have chosen co-chair structure: CMH—**Laura Thayer** and **Cindy Harris-Lindauer**; ABH—**Shari Kuther** & Teresa Shackelford; Housing—Lisa Martin & **Shaun Hollace**; Telehealth—Dean Allen; Prevention—Sharlene Johnson.
- Election of officers in June: Chair—Jim Rehder, Vice Chair—Tom Lamar, Secretary—Sara Bennett, At-large Exec Committee members—Beverly Fowler, Tammy Lish-Watson and Ex-Officio Teresa Shackelford.
- The Board started a strategic planning process in Oct 2019 led by Chris and was stalled due to Covid pandemic.
- The Tele-Health subcommittee asked the Idaho Counseling Assoc. to survey counselors across the State to create a directory of counselors available to do tele-health counseling. At our request they have updated their website this fall and now counselors can add their information to the tele health counselor site to be chosen for counseling.
- New report process for State Planning Council—priorities--BH workforce shortage; Affordable/transition housing; telehealth technology/bandwidth/providers/training; transportation.
- The Board approved the annual budget at \$50k of which \$10k was approved for Board supported regional activities.
- Latah Recovery centers put up many encouraging posters and signs in the county to celebrate September Recovery month during the time of Covid.
- Jim was successful in bringing all the State Chairs to a virtual meeting for the first time during the State Planning Council meeting with Ross Edmunds on Oct 19 and then the Chairs met with the SPC on Oct 20.
- Annual Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training held Dec 9-12. Trainers are Reviewing curriculum to modularize them to allow for greater flexibility for people to learn.
- Board appointments to vacancies: Correction Rep **Terema Carlin** (4/9), H&W Rep **Pam Lapardo** (5/14), School District Rep **Suzi Quintal** (7/9) and **Dianne Baumann** (11/10) were appointed to fill vacancies. Board member appointments to expiring terms—Commissioners **Tom Lamar**, **Mike Ponzozzo**, and **Kathie LaFortune**, H&W employee **Pam Lapardo**, Law Enforcement **Chris Goetz**, Provider of MH Services **Sara Bennett** and School Dist Rep **Suzi Quintal** to terms expiring on 12/31/24.
- Legislators attending Dec 10 Brd Mtg: Senators Crabtree & Nelson; Representatives Nilson-Troy, Kingsley and Giddings; Representative elect—Mitchell. Board meeting was held via Zoom and 39 people attended.