

Region II Behavioral Health Board

2021 Year in Review

2021 Legislative Priorities:

- HB316a--Medicaid Expansion--continued expansion. The Governor recommended \$12.5 million cost-share with the counties to capture the savings counties have realized from Medicaid Expansion. restructures the county and state medically indigent program and shifts the state aid to counties for public health.
- Expanding Mental Health Treatment--appropriated 24.5 FTP and a transfer of \$2.4 million from State Hospital South to State Hospital North for Joint Commission Accreditation to allow State Hospital North to bill Medicaid as an IMD facility.
- Community Recovery Centers--appropriated \$450,000 in one-time funds for community-based recovery centers to help individuals with substance use disorders.
- Overdose Data to Action Grant--appropriated \$190,000 in one-time federal fund spending authority for the Overdose Data to Action Grant which hired and trained toxicologists to perform toxicology testing on approximately 250 death investigation cases coming from coroner offices in Idaho.
- Statewide Opioid Tracking--appropriated \$428,000 in ongoing dedicated fund spending authority to fund the annual operation and maintenance of Statewide Gateway and NarxCare within the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. These tools enhance the tracking of opioids and provide decision-support tools to healthcare providers to improve prescribing and dispensing decisions.
- Broadband Infrastructure--appropriated \$45 million for broadband investments to enhance internet connectivity.
- the new nationwide number (988) has been promoted Federally to be the way the people in crisis access crisis intervention.

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- The Board continues to meet via Zoom since April 2020 due to Covid. Board members like the Zoom meeting format.
 - BHB supported Point in Time Homeless count the last week of January.
 - Reg. 2 Rural Crisis Center Network continues to increase partnerships in Lewiston, Moscow and Orofino; Grangeville site is not yet established due to lack of professional resources. Director Jeppeson likes the R2 Crisis Center model.
 - Darrell Keim was chosen as R2 Mental Health award for 2021.
 - Activity funds approved for CIT training--\$3,000; Latah Recovery Center activity table--\$2,000
 - ICADD conference was held virtually on June 24-29. No scholarships were sought nor BHB funds expended.
 - The Board approved the annual budget at \$50k of which \$13k was approved for Board supported regional activities.
 - Election of officers in June: Chair—Jim Rehder, Vice Chair—Tom Lamar, Secretary—Sara Bennett, At-large Exec Committee members—Beverly Fowler, John Rusche and Ex-Officio Mike Wraith.
 - Annual Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training held—July 19-22 with 22 officers from 4 of 5 counties.
 - Darrel Keim and Joyce Lyons presented at the Region 10 (Northwest + Alaska) Opioid Summit representing Region 2's unique Behavioral Health intervention model.
 - First Step 4 Life fund request paid this fiscal year, \$901, for t-shirts and business cards.
 - The BHB proposed to the Board of Health to establish a "Harm Reduction" program; it is being considered and will use Opioid Settlement funds to potentially create this prevention program.
 - Nine (9) Reg II people attended the Fall State Planning Council meeting via Zoom. Judge John Judge attended and also started to attend the monthly BHB mtgs.
 - The Tele-Health Subcommittee joined the Adult Behavioral Health Subcommittee the issue will be handled under ABH.
 - The Board completed the State Planning Questionnaire and submitted by November 30.
 - Board appointments: Dustin Hibbard—Ex-Officio, Law Enforcement; Mike Wraith—H&W employee vacancy; Michelle Mendenhall-- School District Rep vacancy;
 - Board appointments to expiring terms on Dec 31 with 4yr terms beginning 1/1/22—Prevention Specialist—Sharlene Johnson, Parent of a Child with SED—Megan Comstock, Rep of a Hospital—Shari Kuther, Rep of Juvenile Justice System—Shawn McDowell, Adult MH Consumer Rep—Jenny Tiegen, Adult SUD Consumer Rep—Shaun Hollace, Family Member of an Adult SUD Consumer—Tammy Lish-Watson, Family Member of Adult MH Consumer—Shaun Hogan.
 - Thank you to Board Members with years of service who left the Board—Deborah Lind, Kathy Connerley, Diane Kovach, Skye Taylor, Suzi Quintal and Dianne Baumann.
 - Legislators attending Dec 16 Brd Mtg: Senators Crabtree, Nelson and Dan Johnson's substitute—Robert Blair, Representatives Nilsson-Troy, Mitchell, Kingsley, and McCann. Legislators were in full support of better funding for Recovery Centers. It was suggested to use Opioid settlement funds to start ramping up RC funding.