

Region II Behavioral Health Board
2023 Year in Review

2023 Legislative BH highlights:

- HB350 which ultimately passed in the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee restricted the use of State Opiate Response funds, federal funding for provision of Naloxone to reverse opiate overdoses, to only first responders.
- Community Recovery Centers—Through the effort of Recovery Idaho, JFAC funded \$1,350,000 for FY 2023-24 from the Millennium Fund for the 9 RC's which is \$150,000 each which is increased from \$900,000 in 2022 Legislature.
- Legislative efforts to expand mandatory minimum sentences under drug trafficking provisions to cover fentanyl was defeated. While called drug trafficking in the statute the statute actually is a drug possession statute by which possession of certain quantities of a drug is charged as trafficking.
- HB 61 Interstate Telehealth allows licensed out of state and not licensed BH providers to provide services.
- 4 Regions established Youth Crisis Centers; Reg 1, 2 and 6 need these centers.

--The Board continues to meet via Zoom since April 2020 due to Covid. Board members like the Zoom meeting format. The Board met on Sept 14 and then Dec 14 in person for Legislative BHB meeting.

--BHB supported Point in Time Homeless count the last week of January—Michelle King took over the program from Steve Thomas in January 2023.

--In Feb Shaun Hollace resigned as First Step for Life Recovery Center manager, the center closed; Norma Jaeger of Recovery Idaho helped rebuild the FS4L Board with Tammy Lish-Watson; Astahna Atkins was hired as manager in September to reopen the RC. The FS4L is getting back into full operation and re-opened the Orofino RC.

--Cindy Harris-Lindauer was chosen as R2 Mental Health Advocate award for 2023.

--Crush the Curve website (crushthecurveidaho.com) provides statewide BH service information.

--ICADD conference was not conducted this year.

--The Board approved the annual budget at \$50k of which \$14,455 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, Shari Kuther and Ex-Officio Laura Treat.

--Commissioner Don Beck was appointed as nominating committee chair and Appointing Authority team.

--BHB Board member Jenny Teigen was elected chair of the BH State Planning Council.

--There were no **Board member expiring terms** in 2023

--Thank you to Commissioner Mike Ponzio BHB Member serving for many years who didn't run for re-election.

--Sara and the Board completed the BH State Planning Council Questionnaire and submitted by Sept 1.

--Activity funds approved—Cottonwood School District - Crisis Management Buckets; First Step 4 Life Recovery Center – one month Rent; Kamiah School Dist. motivational Speakers Dustin Hibbard and Lucas Martin; Stone Bridge Reentry Services financial support;

--**Board appointments**—Commissioner Skip Brandt resigned after 7 months, then replaced by Commissioner Vince Frazier; State Representative Lori McCann appointed as ex-officio member; Dianne Baumann reinstated then resigned 7 months later and Kally McFee was appointed to fill the Parent of a Child with SUD position; Shaun Hollace resigned and Amber Hoodman was appointed to fill Adult SUD Consumer Rep position. Astahna Adkins/Holt was appointed as and Ex-Officio member to the Board.

--**Annual Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training held—Feb 8-11 in Moscow with 21 officers receiving training. Three LPD officers were trained at a CIT coordinator training session; and a CIT train the trainer session held and 3 people were trained.**

--**Sharlene Johnson and her team started a Kamiah Recovery Center and hired manager Amber Hoodman.**

--Legislative BHB mtg held Dec 14, Representatives Lori McCann and Brandon Mitchell attended in-person at H&W conference room, which was 2 of 6 regional legislators to attend. Subcommittee, Legislative, RC and Crisis Center reports were given. Both legislators updated the Board on BH issues of the Legislature and their work. Our BHB is encouraged to stay in communication with the Idaho BH Council who makes recommendations to the legislature for funding.