

Region II Behavioral Health Board

2024 Year in Review—created by BHB chair Jim Rehder

2024 Legislative BH highlights: provided to me by H&W Treena Clark

[House Bill 398](#) MEDICAID – Adds to existing law to provide for legislative approval of Medicaid state plan amendments and waivers. [House Bill 406](#) UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES – Adds to existing law to provide for the crimes of trafficking in fentanyl and drug-induced homicide. [House Bill 436](#) OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSES – Amends, repeals, and adds to existing law to provide for the creation of the Idaho Allied Health Professionals Board and to remove references to various health boards that are to be consolidated under the Idaho Allied Health Professionals Board. [House Concurrent Resolution 27](#) HEALTH – States findings of the Legislature, directs the Department of Insurance to collect certain data, and recognizes October 9, 2024, as PANDAS/PANS Awareness Day. [House Concurrent Resolution 30](#) MEDICAID – States findings of the Legislature and directs the Department of Health and Welfare to develop, apply for, and report on waivers for Medicaid and to develop work requirements for waivers. [Senate Bill 1329](#) PARENTAL RIGHTS – Adds to existing law to provide for parental rights in medical decision-making

--**Community Recovery Centers (RC)**—Through the effort of Recovery Idaho, JFAC funded \$1,350,000 for FY 2024-25 from the Millennium Fund for the 9 RC's which is \$150,000 each which is increased from \$900,000 in 2022 Legislature. RC's get their funding quarterly. Hopefully Kamiah RC will be added to the RC funding group in 2025 legislature. --**Reg 1, 2 and 6** still need Youth Crisis centers.

--**2nd anniversary of 988 suicide/crisis lifeline** that started July 2022.

--**Public Health terminated Admin/Fiscal Agent role for BHB on January 31, 2024.** State Health & Welfare took over Admin/Fiscal Agent role which was quite a lengthy and difficult process, but now DHW Christina Gaines is serving as our Admin/Fiscal agent support. The Board now meets via Webx since Feb 2024 in place of Zoom. the Board continues to meet virtually since Covid changed things. Board members like the Zoom/Webx meeting format due to convenience and time savings. The Board met in person on Dec 12 Legislative BHB meeting at 3rd floor H&W conference room in Lewiston.

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

--**Magellan** was selected and started serving in July as State Medicaid BH Managed Care provider replacing Optum.

--**Sharlene Johnson was chosen as R2 Mental Health Advocate award for 2024.**

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

--**Idaho Conference on Alcohol and Drug Dependency (ICADD) conference** held this year May 2024 at BSU.

--**In June, The Board approved the annual budget** at \$50k of which H&W allocated \$15,000 available funds to support regional BH activities. --**Election of officers in June:** Chair—Jim Rehder, Vice Chair—Jenny Teigen, Secretary—Sara Bennett, At-large Exec Committee members—Beverly Fowler, Shari Kuther and appointed Commissioner Tom Lamar.

--**There were 6 Board member expiring terms** in 2024—Commissioners Tom Lamar & Vince Frazier, Sara Bennett, Pam Lopardo and Michelle Mendenhall reappointed with terms thru Dec 31 2028. Need for **Law Enforcement** appointee as Sheriff Goetz retired at the end of his term after serving many years on the BHB, we are so grateful for his great service. **Christine Erbst** was appointed as Juvenile Justice Rep. Latah County Capt. Shane Anderson appointed as Law Enforcement Rep to succeed Sheriff Chris Goetz. --Ex-Officio **Board appointment**—Gus Hoene of Cottonwood.

--**Thank you to Commissioner Don Beck** BHB Member serving on the Board who didn't run for re-election. His successor Latah County Commissioner Elect **Jason Stooks** was chosen by IAC to serve on the BHB, he plans to be active on the BHB and he was appointed by the BHB Appointing Authority.

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

--**The BHB Activity funds approved in 2024**— NAMI teaching and training--\$3,000, Dist 2 Treatment Court staff training--\$1,737.96; and Kamiah Recovery Center equipment and facility assistance--\$3,084.83. When Public Health left us, the new H&W funding approval was substantially more complicated and took a long time to get established to pay the groups we approved.

--**Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Academy Trainings**—2024-Oct 7-10 32hr academy, Nov 20-8hr training session. 2025—April 8-11 32hr Academy, Jan 17, Mar 19, May 21, July 16, and Sept 17-8hr training sessions.

--**Legislative BHB mtg held Dec 12**, Representatives Brandon Mitchell and Kyle Harris attended in-person at H&W conference room, which was 2 of 6 regional legislators to attend. Subcommittee Housing, Adult BH, Chld MH, Legislative, and RC reports were given. Both legislators updated the Board on BH issues of the Legislature and their work and invited us to keep them posted on BH issues. Our BHB is grateful to stay in communication with our regional legislators and the Idaho BH Council who makes recommendations to the legislature for funding.