

REGION II
Behavioral Health Board

MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

December 12, 2024 - 1:30 PM

Lewiston Health Welfare Building - 3rd Floor Conference Room

website: <https://idahoregion2bhb.idaho.gov>

Webx Conference Link:

<https://idhw.webex.com/idhw/j.php?MTID=m37fd2ddd33ba0f1890ad2f28f476cf40>

1. Roll Call, Welcome, and Introductions

x	Don Beck	x	Theresa Graber-Gimmeson		Tammy Lish-Watson	x	Jenny Teigen
x	Sara Bennett	x	Shaun Hogan	x	Pam Lopardo	x	Shannon Jones
x	Megan Comstock	x	Sharlene Johnson	x	Lisa Martin		Ex-Officio
	Beverly Fowler		Beverly Kloefer	x	Christine Erbst	x	<i>Astahna Adkins Holt</i>
x	Vince Frazier	x	Shari Kuther	x	Michelle Mendenhall		<i>April Christenson</i>
x	Amber Hoodman	x	Tom Lamar	x	Summer Overberg		Gus Hoene
	Chris Goetz	x	Kally McFee	x	Jim Rehder		<i>Rep. Lori McCannx</i>

Guests: Sean Waldron, Sally Bryan, Christina Gaines, Laura Thayer, Representative Brandon Mitchell, Representative Kyle Harris, Jake Garringer, Tammy Everson, Kaylie Bednarczyk, Brianna Hoffman, Amanda Davison

2. Approval of November BHB Minutes (**Action Item**): Motion to approve by Pam, seconded by Lisa. No discussion. Motion carries
3. Financial report—Sean/Christina/Sally: Invoices that were submitted for funding approval in October, were all processed. FS4L has received their funding to get the money to District Court Conference group but not the Kamiah recovery center. Currently have \$7,177 available for funding, applications can be made in February 2025.
4. Affirmation of Juvenile Justice System Rep appointment—Christine Erbst—Board (**Action Item**): Motion to affirm Christine Erbst as Juvenile Justice Rep and Jason Stooks who will be succeeding county commissioner Don Beck. Tom made motion to confirm both positions, Kally seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.
5. General discussion with Board members—1:40 pm
6. Welcome Regional State Legislators—1:45pm—Representatives Brandon Mitchell and Kyle Harris.
7. Behavioral Health Board Services and Subcommittee brief reports (3 minutes or less)
--**Reg 2 Recovery Centers and financial support**— Latah county Recovery Center had 8,204 contacts from July 2023-June 2024. They partner with the Oxford House to manage the men’s house and are

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working to get a woman's house open. Lewiston Recovery Center (FS4L) had 2,535 July 2023-June 2024. Providing parenting classes, peer support, life skills, various classes, family nights, transportation. The Department of Corrections partners with the FS4L in weekly Community Connect to offer resources to individuals. Kamiah Recovery Center is working to secure millennium funding, as the other two centers are currently being funded.

--Reg 2 Dispersed Crisis Center model—Joyce Lyons Presented at the public health meeting, no presentation today. The Kamiah recovery center serves 250-300 monthly, offering food and clothing pantry, soup kitchen of Fridays, 19 supports meetings weekly, and peer recovery coach meetings regularly. They are currently receiving some funds from the community & partnership for success grant.

--**Adult Behavioral Health**—Currently meeting monthly. Discussion about the transition from Magellan services and the transition with providers. They will be working on taking the Idaho Behavioral Health strategic action plan to focus on those issues within our region.

--**Children's Mental Health**— Laura Thayer reported this past year Cindy Harris-Lindauer has spent time recruiting new participants to attend the CMH subcommittee meetings. The focus has been on sharing information and Cindy will be bringing guest speakers. Last month the PLL provider came and discussed the referral process. Northwest Children's home will be coming next month to discuss their services and program.

--**Housing**— Lisa reported they focus on needs within the community. Union Gospel Mission will be coming to the valley and their target completion date is Fall 2025. Adult Resource center providing resources to homeless individuals, are working on plans to place a large tent in the community as a warming shelter. No timelines developed at this time. The Lewis Clark Valley Youth Resource Center has been working to secure a lease with the city of Lewiston for the Youth Village housing project for adults 18-25, to assist in establish rental history and life skills. The board keeps information from the Lewiston school district on housing needs. They also work with various different community partners in each community for transition and sober housing. Lisa reported we recognize that there is a housing crisis occurring for those in need.

--**Prevention/Recovery**—Sharlene reported their subcommittee is made up of providers and prevention workers. They facilitate monthly webinars for community partners. They are developing a spring mental health awareness campaign and increasing MAT services.

--**Legislative**—Tom reported the priorities are: establish a youth crisis center in each region (1,2 and 6 are currently without a center), consistent funding for all recovery centers, legislative and State Board of Education funding for expanded Masters of Social Work (MSW) program at Lewis Clark State College and University of Idaho to address the workforce shortage, loan forgiveness for critical behavioral health providers, action to promote school curriculum to support SUD and MH awareness, promote to increase the number of foster families, support for Medicaid programs for families and caregivers of children and adults with disabilities.

8. Individual Legislator introductions and committee assignments—each legislator (3 minutes ea.)

Representative Brandon Mitchell – 3rd term. Currently serving on: JFAC, Vice chair of transportation and defense, interim: Child protection, Indian affairs and millennium fund legislative committees. His priorities are Dates and Deadlines bill for county clerks. He feels they will look at property tax assistance, school choice will be brought up again (he believes there is a public mandate to meet the needs, focus on the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic). Budget process will be asking “what is the return on investment”.

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Representative Kyle Harris – 1st term. He lives in Lewiston and has been meeting people in the community. He has been focused on the behavioral health needs of our youth. He believes he will focus on appropriations to ensure that our region is getting the funding that is needed to address our needs. He discussed reappointments of county commissioners, judge’s appointments that he is interested in. He agrees that school choice and property taxes will be a big topic of discussion. He is on education, business and transportation and defense legislative committees.

9. Board discussion with Legislators to learn expectations for Behavioral Health this year in the 2024 Legislature.

Megan Comstock discussed her experiences within the behavioral health system as a parent. She discussed the difficulties she had with accessing services within Region 2.

Tom Lamar discussed his experiences with talking with providers in our region and the long wait times for accessing services for youth. Jenny Teigen discussed struggles with how the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) services program impacted other families and the struggles with engaging in services. Michelle Mendenhall discussed difficulties with accessing mental health crisis supports services and how they sit in the ER for numerous days. She discussed the limitations of insurance mental health coverages. Christine discussed the need for clinicians to be placed within the school system. Discussed the workforce shortage and the need for additional programs. Theresa discussed the difficulties of private providers as they are Medicaid based providers and there are difficulties in access loan forgiveness or insurance. There was very good discussion by the Behavioral Health Board with Representatives Mitchell and Harris.

10. Next BHB Meeting – January 9, 2025

11. Meeting Adjourn

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