

# REGION II

## *Behavioral Health Board*

### MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

**December 11, 2025 - 11:30 AM**

**Lewiston Health Welfare Building - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room**

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

**Webx Conference Link:**

<https://idhw.webex.com/idhw/j.php?MTID=m2bef5e18bcdcf53eb8aa3053d50d61e>

1. Roll Call, Welcome, and Introductions

x	<b>Shaun Hogan</b>	x	<b>Theresa Graber-Gimmeson</b>	x	<b>Shannon Jones</b>		<b>Jenny Teigen</b>
x	<b>Sara Bennett</b>		<b>Jason Stooks</b>	x	<b>Pam Lopardo</b>	x	<b>Bryan Gimmeson</b>
	<b>Megan Comstock</b>		<b>Sharlene Johnson</b>	x	<b>Norm Embry</b>		Ex-Officio
	<b>Beverly Fowler</b>		<b>Kat Troutman</b>	x	<b>Christine Erbst</b>	x	<i>Astahna Adkins Holt</i>
x	<b>Vince Frazier</b>		<b>Shari Kuther</b>	x	<b>Michelle Mendenhall</b>		<i>April Christenson</i>
x	<b>Amber Hoodman</b>	x	<b>Tom Lamar</b>		<b>Malcom Lyons</b>		Gus Hoene
x	<b>Shane Anderson</b>		<b>Kally McFee</b>	x	<b>Jim Rehder</b>	x	<b>Rep. Lori McCann</b>

Guests: In-person--Representative Kyle Harris, Representative Lori McCann, On Webx-Senator Jim Woodward, Senator Cindy Carlson, Representative Charlie Shepherd.

In-person--Congress--Senator Risch rep- Kaci Ralston, Senator Crapo rep-Leticia Seloske, News reporter Rachel Sun, Darrell Keim, Lisa Martin, Heather Fowler, On Webx--Denise Davis-Miller, Ryan Hoseid, Sean Waldron, Catherine Purdy, Rochelle Bettis, Kaylie Bednarczyk, Heidi Burford-Bell,

2. Approval of November BHB Minutes (**Action Item**) Motion to approve by Pam Lopardo, seconded by Michelle Mendenall. No discussion. Motion passed.
3. Financial report—Sean/Catherine: Upcoming funding application period is February. New applications will be reviewed in March. One recommendation was approved this past year for Vandal Recovery.
4. Approval of Board member travel payment—Board (**Action Item**) Motion by Sean Hogan to approve. Seconded by Norman Embry. No discussion. Motion passed
5. Affirmation of Board member appointments—Denise Davis-Miller and Heather Fowler—Board (**Action Item**) Appointing authority met this past week. Denise will represent Parent of a Child with Serious Emotional Disturbance and Heather will represent Adult Mental Health Consumer Rep. Norm made the motion. Shane Anderson seconded. No discussion on motion. Motion passed.
6. General discussion with Board members—11:30 am
7. View of BH financial donations for Feb Application month—Board-- Jim reported there is \$14,000 remaining for board sponsored activities.

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8. View of New BHB members and need for applications—Board. Needs application for Family Member of an Adult Mental Health Consumer.
9. Welcome Regional State Legislators—Noon
10. Individual Legislator introductions and committee assignments—each legislator (3 minutes ea.)  
Representative Lori McCann—Health & Welfare, Agricultural Affairs, Commerce & Human Resources; Representative Kyle Harris—Business, Education, Transportation and Defense; Senator Jim Woodward—Vice Chair of Finance, JFAC Committees and then Education. Senator Cindy Carlson—Education and Finance. Representative Charlie Shepard—Vice Chair of Resources & Conservation, Revenue & Taxation, Transportation and Defense.
11. Behavioral Health Board Services and Subcommittee brief reports (3 minutes or less)

--Reg 2 Recovery Centers and financial support—Darrell/Shawn/Astahna/Amber-- Darrell reported on the Latah Recovery Center, First Step 4 Life and Kamiah Recovery Center. He provided an overview of the services provided and the regional numbers. Each center maintains a calendar of events that are offered to individuals within the community. Funding through the legislature Idaho Response to the Opioid (IROC) Grant and Millennium funds. Kamiah does not currently receive state funding as they were not included in the 9 initial recovery centers, Kamiah and the Board asking to include them in the Legislature Millennium Fund funding.

--Reg 2 Crisis Center report—Joyce Lyons (Joyce not attending): Lori McCann discussed information provided by Joyce Lyons with Public Health. Sara Bennett provided information about the Crisis Center model. Lori McCann asked about youth crisis centers and the discussion was about hospitalization. Christine Erbst discussed her experience with youth as juvenile justice in Orofino. Kyle Harris asked about the number of children within this region that go into crisis. It was recommended that we attempt to access data from 988. Christine Erbst discussed the local schools staffing clinical staff within the school districts. Michelle Mendenhall reports that she sees 5-8 children in crisis a month within the Lewiston School District. There was great emphasis on the need for Region 2 Youth Crisis Center; there are 4 Regions that critically need Youth Crisis Centers.

--Adult Behavioral Health—Pam: Pam Lopardo discussed the nature of the people that sit on the subcommittee. They are focusing on ways to patch holes or survive not having a patch for the problems within mental health. Discussed difficulties with transportation struggles. Discussed lack of providers and difficulty accessing services. Pam also discussed mental health commitments due to lack of access to services and medications.

--Children's Mental Health— No update provided as committee chairs were not in attendance.

--Housing—Norm: Norm Embry reported they have been focusing on housing for the justice involved individuals and have secured grant funding. There is funding from a grant from the City of Lewiston from Opioid funding to support housing costs for those being released from jail. There are Oxford Houses, Re-entry/Sober houses and those funds are used to fund housing there. In Latah there are 7 beds for woman and 10 for men. They are all full at this time, so there is a waitlist. Darrell reported the Oxford Houses in Moscow filled immediately. Funding currently covers a few months and people can stay for

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months to years. The men's houses do not allow children where there are some woman's houses that allow children. There is no housing in Idaho, Lewis or Clearwater county. Nez Perce county has Oxford House, Rising Sun and Moonlight mountain. Discussed that nature of Oxford House's.

--Prevention/Recovery—Amber or Theresa: Amber Hoodman reported there was a suicide awareness campaign throughout the region. They recently have been discussing the loss of peer support specialist and how those needs and gaps will be filled within the region.

--Legislative—Tom/Chris/Jim: Jim discussed the legislative priorities identified by the Regional BHB. Jim discussed the Sheriff Association letter that was very detailed on the loss of funding and closing services and Jim sent to everyone. Our Regional Legislators received the list of the BHB legislative priorities and he will send out documents again including the Sheriff's Association detailed letter.

## 12. Board discussion with Legislators to learn expectations for Behavioral Health the coming year in the 2026 Legislature.

Kaci Ralston reported a federal update. Rural Health transportation program was supported by Senator Risch's office. The State of Idaho has applied for 1B in this program. On adoption and foster care Senator Risch has been a strong supporter and feels Adams will bring good access. She discussed additional programs Senator Risch supports. Leticia with Senator Crapo's office reported the various efforts he supports. In Healthcare the senate voted on Crapo's bill to expand Health Saving Account Options. She discussed a statewide housing survey and they are going through the data now.

Local law enforcement officers—BHB member, County Commissioner and Orofino Police Chief Vince Frazier and Latah County Sheriff's Office Captain Shane Anderson discussed the results of the cuts from Medicaid and how that impacts their workload.

Latah County Commissioner Tom Lamar discussed his biggest concern about people's access to health insurance.

Lisa Martin former BH Board member and First Step 4 Life Recovery Center Board member discussed the importance of the Recovery Centers and the support they offer those struggling with addiction.

Michelle Mendenhall, BHB School District Representative discussed concerns about education funding and potential cuts to resources that are caused by the school voucher legislation.

Lori McCann discussed how to reach out to legislators to help them understand how the costs will be increased due to the behavioral health cuts. Tom Lamar discussed how the income tax cuts need to be re-looked at in order to address the needs, along with the school voucher problem.

Kyle Harris discussed his concerns about the behavioral health cuts and he reported he likes visual information that he can use. He discussed presenting the information to the committees. He discussed ongoing efforts to work on bringing a Master's in Social Work program to LCSC.

## 13. Next BHB Meeting – January 15, 2026 (Third Thursday)

## 14. Meeting Adjourn

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