

## Region II Behavioral Health Board

**2025 Year in Review**—created by BHB chair Jim Rehder

### **2025 Legislative BH highlights:** Message from Ross Edmunds, State BH director

There wasn't much last year, actually. We had a few issues getting our budget through and they placed the funding for the Center of Excellence as one time. Oh, and we changed the co-pay/client contribution portion of code to simplify the process by eliminating the sliding fee scale and only leaving the 5% cap only.

--**Community Recovery Centers (RC)**—Through the effort of Recovery Idaho, JFAC funded \$1,350,000 for FY 2025-26 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 2026 legislature. --**Reg 1, 2 and 6** still need Youth Crisis centers.

**3rd anniversary of 988 suicide/crisis lifeline** that started July 2022.

--**Health and Welfare Admin/Fiscal Agent role for BHB started on January 31, 2024.** DHW Christina Gaines worked well for our BHB and now starting in 2025, Catherine Purdy is serving as our Admin/Fiscal agent support. Sally Bryan and Sean Waldron help us on issues when needed. The Board meets virtually via Webx since Covid changed things. Board members like the Webx meeting format due to convenience and time savings. The Board meets annually in-person the second Thursday of Dec for Legislative BHB meeting at 3<sup>rd</sup> floor H&W conference room in Lewiston; Legislators come to our meeting after Public Health Board meeting next door—Representatives Lori McCann and Kyle Harris attended in-person; Senators Jim Woodward and Cindy Carlson and Representative Charlie Shepherd attended via Webx.

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

--**Magellan** continues serving as State Medicaid BH Managed Care provider replacing Optum.

--**Darrell Keim was chosen as R2 Mental Health Advocate award for 2025.**

--**Idaho Conference on Alcohol and Drug Dependency (ICADD) conference** held this year May 2025 at BSU where BHB Chair Jim Rehder was presented the ICADD Lifetime Achievement Award.

--**In June, The Board approved the annual budget** that H&W allocated \$15,000 available funds for each BHB to support regional BH activities. --**Election of officers in June:** Chair—Jim Rehder—12th election, Vice Chair—Sharlene Johnson, 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 2025—Christine Erbst, Shari Kuther, Shaun Hogan, Megan Comstock, Sharlene Johnson, Amber Hoodman, Jenny Teigen and, Malcom Lyons, —**Christine, Shari, Sharlene, Amber and Shaun** were reappointed after their applications. Megan, Jenny and Malcom retired from Board. **Heather Fowler** was appointed for Adult MH Consumer Representative; **Denise Davis-Miller** was appointed as Parent of a Child with Serious Emotional Disturbance. Our BHB has a Need for Family Member of Adult SUD Consumer. All appointment terms are thru Dec 31 2029.

In April Lisa Martin retired from BHB and Norm Embry was appointed as her successor for Court appointed judiciary representative.

**Reg 2 BHB Appointing Authority**—Commissioner Jason Stooks, H&W Pam Lopardo and BHB Chair Jim Rehder.

--**Sara and the Board completed the 2025 BH State Planning Council Needs and Gaps** being prepared for Idaho Governor and was submitted by Sept 1.

**--The BHB Activity funds approved in 2025—** Latah Recovery Center for Oxford housing--\$2,000; FS4L Recovery Center--\$1,004 for T-shirts to support recovery; Kamiah Recovery Center \$1,113 and their ICADD conference fees and travel of \$4,017; Vandal Recovery was given \$1,000 for their activity assistance. Prevention/Recovery Yard signs \$2,275.

In March the Board approved Amber Hoodman as the BHB Fund application coordinator.

**--Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Academy Trainings—led by Laura Thayer--2025---** In 2025 CIT Training hosted on full CIT Academy April 7-10th and had 14 attendees. CIT Training also hosted a one day 8 hour CIT for new LPD officers on May 21st.

**--Legislative BHB mtg held Dec 11,** Representatives Lori McCann and Kyle Harris attended in-person at H&W conference room, which was 2 of 6 District 6 regional legislators to attend in-person. Senator Cindy Carlson and Representative Charlie Shepherd and and Region 1 Senator Jim Woodward, attended via webx. Subcommittee Housing, Adult BH, Legislative, and Recovery Center reports were given. 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.