

Regional Behavioral Health Board Answers

This form is designed to collect information for the annual report to the Governor and Legislature about behavioral health services in Idaho. If you have any pictures of community events in your region, please attach them. Thank you for your help in improving the quality of behavioral health services for Idahoans!

Person Completing Form: Sara Bennett, Secretary and Jim Rehder, Chair

Region: 2

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Please list your Behavioral Health Board's Sub-Committees along with each sub-committee's Chair name and contact information:

Housing – Norman Embry (208) 254-0603

Children's Mental Health – Laura Thayer & Cindy Harris-Lindauer (208) 799-4440

Adult Behavioral Health – Pam Lopardo (208) 799-4440

Prevention – Sharlene Johnson (208) 816-3143

Please list your region's top three goals from last year:

1. Increase workforce in the area
2. Increase housing options for individuals within the behavioral health system
3. Increase community crisis supports for youth

Please list the top 3 action items for these goals from last year:

1. Continued to advocate for a higher education program within the area
2. Supported the Latah Recovery center's Oxford House rebuild and new purchase
3. A subcommittee was started for youth crisis supports

Please provide short answer on your success or outcome from last year's goals. If not, explain why.

Progress was made on all three goals, though full implementation is ongoing. Advocacy efforts for local higher education have gained traction, but a formal program has not yet been established. Housing support advanced with the Oxford House rebuild and purchase, expanding options for behavioral health clients. The youth crisis support subcommittee laid foundational work, but additional resources are needed to fully launch services. Additionally, advocacy to introduce behavioral health career pathways in local high schools has begun, aiming to strengthen the future workforce.

What education and/or community events did you participate in?

- Provided resources to NAMI Idaho to develop their base of trained program leaders / trainers to provide support, education, and advocacy on behalf of those living with or caring for someone with mental illness.
- Provided funding to support individuals from local agencies and recovery centers to be trained in the latest mental health court and SUD treatment services (ICADD).
- Supported First Step 4 Life in participating in the Hands Across The Bridge recovery event for Recovery Month 2025.
- Provided resources for Latah Recovery to purchase and complete a Needs Assessment in hopes of bringing a Youth Crisis Center to Reg. 2.
- Prevention and Recovery Sub-committee designed, purchased, and distributed over 250 yard sign s for their Yard Sign Campaign to reduce the prevalence of suicide, improve mental health awareness, provide resources for supportive services, promote community support, and education/prevention.
- Legislators from Reg. 2 have come to our board meetings to discuss and support Medicaid and Medicaid Expansion to help many in our region with behavioral and physical healthcare needs and also to help protect our regional health care facilities and behavioral health professional's operation.
- We continue to collaborate with behavioral health organizations in our region and across the state to help promote awareness, education, and resources that assist people with behavioral health needs in our monthly board meetings.

Please list your region's top 3 greatest gaps and needs in behavioral health for the current year

1. Youth Crisis Supports
2. Access to care due to limited mental health providers and long waitlists
3. Housing

Do you feel access to Mental Health services in your Region has improved, decreased, or is staying the same? Please explain why.

Access to care continues to be an ongoing issue, with waitlists to see a provider. With the decreased reimbursement rates going into effect this will further decrease access and limit the Region's ability to recruit clinical staff into the area. Magellan has offered additional services through the IBHP and some of those services were introduced into Region 2 this past year.

Do you feel access to Substance Use Disorder services (Prevention, Treatment, Recovery) in your Region has improved, decreased, or is staying the same? Please explain why.

The current Medicaid provider network does not adequately support substance abuse treatment needs, especially for youth. Magellan has separated Mental Health treatment and Substance Abuse treatment creating unnecessary barriers and requiring individuals to choose which service they will engage in, not allowing both mental health and SUD treatment.

Please provide a brief 20-50 word quote from a community member, peer, or BHB member about the importance of mental health services in your region.

In Region 2, behavioral health services aren't just support—they're a lifeline. Every person deserves access to care that empowers them to heal, grow, and thrive.

Behavioral Health Gaps and Needs

Rate each category with 1 being the most critical in your area.	1-13
Access to treatment providers – Transportation, waitlists	2
Stable Housing	3
Community Crisis Center	8
Anti-Stigma education	13
Suicide Prevention Resources	9
Children/Adolescents Mental Healthcare	4
Veteran's Mental Healthcare	7
Caregiver supports (including education, training, emotional support, respite care, etc.)	5
Peer supports (including education, training, emotional support, etc.)	12
Substance use disorder treatment centers	6
Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for law enforcement officers	10
Mental Health Court	11
Other: Youth Crisis Supports	1

