

REGION II

Behavioral Health Board

MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

May 13, 2021-- 1:30 PM

Zoom Conference Meeting due to COVID-19 restrictions

website: www.riibhb.idahopublichealth.com

Zoom Conference Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85095393014?pwd=b3ZhUTRGNzBLR2xIZm9kKzR3MW5KQT09>

1. Roll Call, Welcome, and Introductions

Board Members

x	Dianne Baumann		Sharlene Johnson	x	Pam Lopardo	x	Jenny Teigen
x	Sara Bennett	x	Darrell Keim		Lisa Martin	x	Michael Wraith
x	Terema Carlin	x	Diane Kovach	x	Mike Ponozzo		
	Megan Comstock	x	Shari Kuther	x	Suzi Quintal	x	Dean Allen
x	Kathy Connerley	x	Kathie LaFortune	x	Jim Rehder	x	Dustin Hibbard
	Beverly Fowler	x	Tom Lamar	x	John Rusche	x	Todd Hurt
x	Chris Goetz	x	Deborah Lind	x	Skye Taylor		

Others In Attendance: Wesley Neisler, Donnie Vernell, Karen Kopf, Cindy O'Brien, Carol Moehrle, Erin Moore, Lana Schuerman, Wendy Stoneberg, Tammy Everson, Joyce Lyons, Stephanie Biedman, Michelle King, Anna Guida, Adam Panitch, Shaun Hollace, Heidi Burford-Bell

2. **Approval of April BHB Minutes (Action Item):** Kathy Connerly moved, Mike Ponozzo seconded. Motion passed

3. **Financial report—Carol/Perri:** Carol reported the board had \$10,000 for board activities. There has been \$2500 for ICADD registration, \$2000 for recovery center festival, \$3000 CIT training, \$1049 upriver youth request. \$9299.00 in request, \$701 remaining at this time. \$1500 in travel funds have been requested to transfer to board activities as the meetings have been through zoom. June 15th is the closing of the budget. All requests need to be submitted by next week to be approved by the board.

4. **Board activity fund discussion—Board:** Latah county recovery center has requested an activity table from board funds. This will be used for numerous activities. Motion to approved by Jenny Teigen, seconded by Shari Kuther. No discussion on the motion. Motion passed.

5. **Harm Reduction, a Law Enforcement Perspective—Donnie Varnell, Investigator Dare County Sheriff's Office, NC:** Donnie is currently working with the Dare County Sheriff's office. He took over the statewide drug unit and was tasked with getting the overdose death rate down. They arrested individuals and increased penalties, but there was no decrease in the overdose death rate. He went to the licensing boards to work with decreasing prescription dosing but the rates continued to not decrease. Harm reduction with law enforcement: view addiction as a health crisis, find ways to meet them where they are at and find services that they feel they need. Harm reduction can be decreasing the daily dosing of an individual. Naloxone carried by first responders as it can save ER visit costs. They have started syringe service program which shows that individuals are 4 times more likely to see services as well and there is a decrease in Hep C rates. Contact information for Donnie: cell 336-338-1507 email Donnie.varnell@darenc.com

Chris Goetz agreed to get the information and to pass it along to the Sheriff's departments. Jenny Tiegen asked if presentations had been made to legislatures and he reports he has done this with Iowa, North Carolina, Congress and with numerous smaller groups.

6. **Mental Health Awareness month—Darrell Keim chosen for Region 2 —Empower Idaho:** Anna Guida with Empower Idaho read a letter written for the nomination of Darrell Keim. Darrell thanked the board for the nomination and votes.
7. **Idaho Behavioral Health Council update—IBHC rep:** Adam Panitch, Health and Welfare who is working as staff with the IBHC. He is working on the draft of the plan. They have been working for the past 9 months to make recommendations and action items to the governor. The report is due by the end of June. Their next meeting is May 21st, and they are hoping to move forward with publication of the draft recommendations. Public comment will be solicited after it is published. June 1st is the day for public comment. There will also be a survey. The plan should include how the council will work with the regional boards. No questions from the board.
8. **Officer Election process/Ex-Officio appointment preparation—Mike P/Jim:** Mike reported the executive members are the following: Jim Rehder, Tom Lamar, Sara Bennett, Beverly Fowler, John Rusche. The board can nominate any other additional candidates and then voting will be in June.
9. **Budget preparation discussion for June approval—Carol:** Jim reported the upcoming fiscal year for 2022 budget will be sent out. Jim reported there were no travel expenses during the past year. He is proposing that we have 4 meetings in person yearly and have the rest of the meetings via zoom. Skye discussed she likes the idea of having in person but along with the opportunity to participate via zoom—Hybrid meetings. Zoom has increase participation of board members. Chris Goetz asked if there was anything preventing us from meeting in person as he finds it more productive to meet in person. Kathy likes the option of the zoom connection moving forward as there are other commitments that impact her participation to attend in person. Jim asked Caitlyn if we are able to meet in person and on zoom. John Rusche reported he has participated in groups that have hybrid zoom and in person meetings but with large groups he has found them to be less helpful. Jim suggested once a quarter meetings in person. Dianne Baumann reports the university has been doing hybrid meetings and it has gone well.
10. **Rural Crisis Center Network update—Joyce Lyons:** Joyce reported 81 clients were served in the first quarter. 41 people were served in the Moscow office, as they have a strong relationship with the recovery center. There are strong relationships with the university and this partnership has increased the Moscow numbers. Joyce reported there are two full time interns in Moscow, one is from Grangeville and will be building relationships in that area. From March 15th- March 31st they saw 46 clients for a total of 110 hours. There is a card prepared and ready with mobile crisis on one side and the crisis center information on the other side. Joyce and the Region have been going to the law enforcement briefings to provide information about the crisis services in the region. Joyce discussed the frequent callers and she is seeking information about a warm line for those who are struggling.

John Rusche asked about the diversion of resources and asked how this information has been tracked. Joyce reported they are tracking how services are being accessed. John discussed collecting additional information to be presented to the county commissioners. Currently there is no information being collected about the cost savings with transportation and waiting times for the police officers. Dianne Baumann reported all information should be available through the dispatch system. Chris reported the numbers have increased recently and the cost savings is not being collected accurately. Joyce will come back in August for another update.

11. **Legislative update—Tom:** Tom reported the legislature continues to remain in session. Tom served as a replacement for Senator Nelson and watched the process. There were numerous bills that died and

then came back with some changes. One thing to impact the citizens is the initial killing bill that was passed early on this session. This is the initiative that led to the expansion of Medicaid. Reclaim Idaho and another organization has filed suit against this legislation. The Idaho legislature was focused on taking away power from the governor and the people. Medicaid expansion got renewed. He is not aware of any mental health specific bills.

Chris Goetz reported the counties will pay 100 percent of the public health costs and mental health costs. The Catastrophic Health (CAT) fund spent \$10 million in mental health costs and the legislature will pay that. Counties will pay 2021 costs of public health and then negotiate any further costs.

12. Recovery Community Center Latah/Nez Perce Counties—Darrell & Shaun— Board: Darrell reported they are operating as normal with the support groups and meetings. They are busy. They just added a safe syringe exchange program on May 1st, 2021. NIAC is hoping to expand their reach into Region 2.

John Rusche moved that Public health develop a plan and a budget for harm reduction within Region 2. This motion was made and seconded. **Motion passed.** John reported he discovered public health has not been able to address harm reduction like WA. There are different philanthropic organizations that would be willing to fund those programs if a plan were submitted.

Darrell reported their harm reduction program has been negatively impacted through support from the Catholic church as they are providing condoms.

Sharlene Johnson reported she heard a rumor that anyone in drug court cannot go to the recovery center due to the needle exchange program. Darrell reported this is not true.

Shaun reported they had 1000 people through their doors. They transported 22 individuals to medical appointment. They are planning events and activities.

Jim met with Norma Jagger and a representative to try and get Recovery Center base funding set in the budget each year.

13. BHB Subcommittee Members, Reports and Board Discussion

—**CMH**- No update provided, as they meet following today's meeting.

—**ABH**- Shari reported they met today just before the board meeting. They discussed the shortage of providers for medical management, ACT services, counseling, etc. Discussed how payors appear unaware of the shortage. Todd reported Optum was not aware of the shortage of services for children within our area and this questioned their awareness of the overall shortage. Discussed the possibility of the board sending a letter to payors. Financial support to providers and how the legislature if working on portability of licensure across state lines. Discussed reimbursement for providers to attract providers to the area. Discussed peer to peer/recover coach use to support practitioners, similar to the community health worker model. RFP for Medicaid is approaching and want a goal for the project to increase services in the rural and frontier areas of Idaho.

—**Housing**-Shaun reported Orofino sober living is full. Discussed using storage containers for sustainability in housing in our area. United Way is not applying for housing grants, other agencies can apply.

—**Telehealth**- No meeting in the past month. Not much activity in this area. Crabtree/Nelson request and update for broadband progress.

—**Prevention**- Sharlene reported they met last week and finalized the upcoming grant. Community dialogue series completed yesterday. Prevention programs going very well currently.

14. Public Input: Wendy Stoneberg reported Kites of Hope are being delivered within the region. NAMI, DAC, recovery centers will be distribution sites for those who want to fly the kites. Organizations wanting kites can email Wendy at wendy.stoneberg@optum.com

Jim reported Health and Welfare is a possibility for funding for a strategic planning development. The colleges and universities could provide the facilitators.

15. Next BHB Meeting – June 10, 2021

16. Meeting Adjourn: