

Region II Behavioral Health Board  
2018 Year in Review

2018 Legislative Priorities:

- 1-Rural Crisis Response (RCR) was funded with funding available 7/1/18.
- 2-Medicaid Expansion--Idaho Health Care bill (Medicaid expansion hybrid) failed; Reclaim Idaho is gathering signatures to get Medicaid expansion on the ballot. The initiative was passed by voter approval on 11/6/18.
- 3-Recovery Center financial support—Rep Kingsley’s bill to tax pharmaceutical companies for funding failed.
- 4-Overdose prevention law--H649 passed--MEDICAL HELP, OVERDOSE, CHARGES - Provides that persons acting in good faith who are seeking or needing medical assistance for a drug-related overdose shall not be charged or prosecuted for possessing, using or being under the influence of a controlled substance.
- 5-Suicide prevention phone app—no action; H634 provides for suicide awareness and prevention training for teachers and other public school personnel.
- 6-Accelerated Resolution Therapy presented by Melanie Flowers of D7—no action

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- Our innovative Rural Crisis Response model was funded by the legislature and is designed to be a decentralized service to work with our regional hospitals to reach those in crisis and take appropriate action to stabilize them.
  - The motto, “Crisis Center for a day, Recovery Center for a lifetime” describes difference.
  - Goals for state increased funding for Substance Use Disorders, Mental Health & You phone app and Accelerated Resolution Therapy continue. Less funding available for non-criminal people.
  - BHB supported Point in Time Homeless count the last week of January.
  - Reg 2 worked with community partners to open two Oxford Homes.
  - ICADD scholarships (\$500 ea) to Stephanie Beidman and Cathlin Stewart in May at BSU.
  - Recovery Centers received grant funding from Idaho Response to Opioid Crisis (IROC) grant through Recovery Idaho.
  - New Open mtg law requirements effective July 1—mtg announcements including subcommittees, minutes, action items.
  - State Hospital North was able to hire 3 psychiatrists after years of vacancies—declassified the positions to pay more.
  - IDHW Mental Health Awards—Regional Empowerment award—Sharlisa Davis; Regional Contribution of Honor award—Marvin Hanks.
  - Newly appointed Prevention Specialist position added by the legislature--Sharlene Johnson with term expiration of 12/31/21.
  - Suicide Prevention training through Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN)—Question, Persuade, Refer—QPR; Suicide Prevention Program Director, Kim Kane met with Reg 2 Board.
  - Annual Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) held in August 23-24; seek annual ongoing support from law enforcement and others.
  - Support for Latah County National Recovery month and Hands Across the Bridge in Lewiston--\$500 ea.
  - Unique and helpful outcomes from Community Patient Center Home Model—SM/CV Hospitals
  - Ongoing interest and anticipation for Youth Empowerment Services—projected 9yrs to fully implement.
  - Optum expanded telehealth for independent licensed therapist on Nov 1.
  - Rural Crisis Response project contract signed and effective on 11/1/18. Joyce Lyons hired as project coordinator.
  - Partnership for Success (PFS) signed on 11/5/18. Sharlene Johnson hired as project coordinator.
  - Reg 2 BHB voted to endorse Medicaid Expansion which voters passed on Nov 6.
  - Subcommittee chairs appointed: Mike—nominating, Jenny—ABH, Tom L—Rural Crisis Response, Sara—Needs & Gaps, Sharlene—Prevention.
  - Board appointments to vacancies: Kathy Connerly, Jason Davis, Glenda Thomson, Lisa Bomley, Kathie LaFortune
  - Board members appointed to 4yr terms expiring 12/31/22—Lisa Martin, Glenda Thomson, Kristi Kuefuss, Beverly Fowler, Darrell Keim, Tammy Lish-Watson, Teresa Shackelford, and Jim Rehder. Appointed to 3yr term expiring 12/31/21—Shari Kuther. Todd Hurt appointed Ex-Officio on Dec 13, 2018 for 4yr term.
  - Legislators attending Dec Brd Mtg: Senators Crabtree & Nelson, Representatives Stevenson, Goesling and Kingsley.