

Region II Behavioral Health Board
2019 Year in Review

2019 Legislative Priorities:

- 1--HB1204aa--Medicaid Expansion—the legislature passed sideboards for work and other costly regulations. Gov signed 4/9/19. Medicaid Expansion initiative passed by 61%; Implementation of ME is now a priority.
- 2--SB1054--Legislature passed our proposal to remove **chair** of county commission on BHB appointing authority and have a county commissioner on the appointing authority. Passed 99-0.
- 3--HB12—Legislation provides for health professionals, not medical professionals to administer Naloxone to revive a person in an overdose condition. Gov signed 2/14/19.
- 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—SB1028—volunteer 1st responders with a physical injury may get BH services for PTSD through workman’s comp. Gov signed 3/21/19.
- 6--H180 The Syringe and Needle Exchange Act – Allows for the operation of syringe and needle exchange programs.
- 7-- On the Medicaid Expansion bill- One big waiver request which will be very important to those with mental illness is the establishment of IMD (Institutions for Mental Disease) which will allow those inpatient facilities to be paid by Medicaid (currently not allowed). The other waivers include the work requirements waiver (not passed in other states), the family planning waiver (currently disallowed by CMS rules), the Choice waiver – allowing those between 100 – 138% of FPL to remain on the insurance exchange if desired. A waiver to allow medical professionals to include SUD questions on a health risk assessment, the bill also instructs the department to place individuals in the expansion population into managed care.
- 8--The legislature provided annualized funding to operate all 7 crisis centers.
- 9-Suicide prevention phone app—no action; H634 provides for suicide awareness and prevention training for teachers and other public school personnel.
- 10-Accelerated Resolution Therapy presented by Melanie Flowers of D7—no action

--Our innovative Rural Crisis Center Network model was funded in 2018 by the legislature and is designed to be a decentralized crisis response—Lewiston opened 8/1/19; Orofino opened 9/1/19; Moscow opened 11/1/19. Grangeville center is being developed.

--The motto, “Crisis Center for a day, Recovery Center for a lifetime” describes Crisis and Recovery Centers purpose.

--BHB supported Point in Time Homeless count the last week of January.

--Steve Button was chosen as R2 Mental Health award for 2019.

--ICADD scholarships (\$500 ea) to Stephanie Beidman and Debi Dockins in May at BSU.

--Recovery Centers received one year community outreach funding from Idaho Millennium Fund; Norma Jaeger, Recovery Idaho applied for the funding. Need to find a way to sustain this productive endeavor.

--Financially supported Latah Recovery Festival, Kamiah drug/alcohol free youth community days event, and Lewiston Recovery Center Hope and Grace event for \$500 ea.

-- Subcommittee chairs appointed in bold—several committees have chosen co-chair structure: CMH—**Jennifer & Megan**; ABH—**Tammy & Teresa**; Housing—**Tammy & Lisa M**; Telehealth—**Dean**; Prevention—Sharlene.

--Election of officers in June: Chair—Jim Rehder, Vice Chair—Tom Lamar, Secretary—Lisa Bomley, Additional Executive Committee members—Beverly Fowler, Jennifer Shuffield and Ex-Officio Teresa Shackelford.

--Dean and the Telehealth subcommittee applied to the LC Valley Health Foundation for a \$5,000 telehealth clinician certification and was awarded the grant in Oct. Two part course—“Client centered security and privacy for BH professionals” and “Launching yourself into cyberspace” scheduled for January 2020.

--The Board started a strategic planning process in Oct led by Chris.

--New report process for State Planning Council—priorities--BH workforce shortage; Affordable/transition housing; telehealth technology/bandwidth/providers/training; transportation.

--Annual Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training held in Dec 9-12.

--Board appointments to vacancies: Chris Goetz reappointed in June to fill vacancy by Jason Davis.

--Board members appointments—no terms expired in 2019.

--Legislators attending Dec Brd Mtg: Senator Nelson, Representatives Stevenson, and Goesling.