

# Idaho State Planning Council on Mental Health

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Regional Behavioral Health Board:

The Idaho State Planning Council on Mental Health sends this correspondence in response to the revision of Chapter 31, Title 39 Idaho Code. We are looking forward to developing our relationship with the Regional Boards as we all work through the opportunities that transformation of Idaho's behavioral health system provides. These changes allow for both mental health and substance use disorders to fall under the scope of behavioral health. This consolidation affects the duties and responsibilities of both the Council and the Regional Boards.

The Council was established pursuant to Public Law 99-660 and was placed into Idaho Code (IC 39-3125) in 2006. As defined by both state and federal law, the purpose of the Council has been to serve as an advocate for adults, children and youth with mental health disorders. The Council has provided guidance to the state behavioral health authority in the development and implementation of the state mental health systems plan, monitored the block grant, and evaluated the allocation and adequacy of state services. Because the transformation legislation passed in the last session of the Idaho Legislature, this responsibility is now extended to all of behavioral health.

The Council is in the early stages of establishing its membership and defining its direction as a Behavioral Health Planning Council as required under the new state law and federal law. The Council's first meeting with new board members, including members representing substance use disorder services, will be in August, 2014. We understand that some of the Regional Boards are far ahead of us in this effort, but completing this inclusive process is critical to fulfilling our new responsibilities.

It is our responsibility to develop readiness and performance criteria for determining whether Regional Boards are prepared to accept responsibility for community family support services and recovery support services within their regions. The included information should provide your board with direction on the guiding principles we will be looking for as we evaluate applications from the Regional Boards for providing some or all of the allowed services under the new law.

Transformation is new to all of us and will be a work in progress as new ideas and developments are shared. The Division of Behavioral Health will provide you with a toolkit with additional information and examples that may be useful as you create your organization's foundational structure. We will offer future communications as we reorganize to meet the requirements of transformation.

Cordially,

Martha Ekhoﬀ, Chair

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