## Idaho State Planning Council on Mental Health

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June 29, 2010

The Honorable C. L. "Butch" Otter Governor of Idaho State Capitol, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, West Wing P.O. Box 83720 Boise, Idaho 83720

Dear Governor Otter:

The Idaho State Planning Council on Mental Health respectfully submits for your review the 2010 annual status report. This report emphasizes the need to continue to address the challenges, shortfalls, and economic concerns of Idaho's publically funded mental health system of care.

Our hope is that this report will provide you with a clear overview of the areas of concern and the challenges mental illness brings to the lives of many of Idaho's citizens. The report emphasizes the consequences of lack of available services and resources which results in over utilization of our jails, prisons and uncompensated hospital care. The cost for providing mental health services, regardless of the form, is simply inescapable; the consequences of lack of adequate care and treatment in many cases are dire.

The State Planning Council provides a voice and serves as an advocate for children, youth, adults, and their families on a variety of mental health issues. The council membership is dedicated to improving and advocating for a system of care that provides quality mental health services. We have a generous cross-section of citizenry representing the various stakeholders and Regional Mental Health Boards across Idaho.

As a group we support and are encouraged by the efforts of the formation of Governor's Behavioral Health Transformation Workgroup. We continue to look forward to working with you and your office in advancing Idaho's Mental Health system of care as the transformation continues and sincerely hope the improved system will be one that is client centered, recovery focused, and adequately financed.

Sincerely,

Teresa Wolf

Idaho State Planning Council, Chair