



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION WORKGROUP

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, GOVERNOR
ARTHUR F. (SKIP) OPPENHEIMER, CHAIRMAN

October 29, 2010

The Honorable Governor Otter
Office of the Governor
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

Dear Governor Otter:

On behalf of the Behavioral Health Transformation Work Group (BHTWG), I am pleased to present to you the BHTWG's Plan for the Transformation of Idaho's Behavioral Health System 2010. The work, done in response to Executive Order 2009-04 and extended by Executive Order 2010-01, represents what the BHTWG believes is the best possible path toward achieving a coordinated, efficient state behavioral health infrastructure which most effectively and efficiently meets Idaho's needs and uses taxpayer dollars.

The Plan recommends a structure that streamlines and integrates existing mental health and substance use disorder entities and efforts. The structure features regional empowerment, and it provides the platform to improve access, enhance quality, develop consistent service delivery standards, outcome-based services and data-driven decision-making which will increase efficiencies and accountabilities.

Our effort has included and considered the results of the original report conducted by WICHE, a Technical Expert panel review of our proposal, a statewide stakeholder and public outreach process, a session with members of the judiciary statewide, coordination with Division of Financial Management Administrator Wayne Hammon, coordination with Senator Joe Stegner, Representative Block and communications with other state legislators, the input of Regional Mental Health Boards and Regional Advisory Councils and state agency personnel from IDOC, IDJC and DHW, and other committed stakeholders who regularly attended our meetings and provided input to our discussions.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this proposal. It is our sincere hope that you will respond in the very near term with an Executive Order that establishes the State Behavioral Health Interagency Cooperative so that this work can continue, and so that the Cooperative can be organized to follow-up with and provide input on proposed legislative action required to establish the rest of the proposed structure. The Plan includes some language to help inform the development of that Executive Order.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for the privilege of including us in this process and for the opportunity to contribute to the development of this very important system. It has been my privilege to chair this effort, and I have every confidence in the results.

Respectfully yours,

Skip Oppenheimer, BHTWG Chair
Chairman/CEO Oppenheimer Companies