

# Region II Behavioral Health Board

*Serving Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce Counties*

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March 19, 2015

Re: Letter of Support – Reg. I Crisis Center Funding

Dear Region I Behavioral Health Board:

The Region II Behavioral Health Board strongly supports the funding and placement of a Crisis Center in Region I.

Idaho has the 6<sup>th</sup> highest suicide rate in the country; the cost of suicide attempts in our state is \$36 million annually. Individuals currently seen in the emergency rooms and/or detained by law enforcement who are in crisis and do not require hospitalization but need a safe place for 24 hours, would be better served in a crisis center. The Crisis Center in Idaho Falls has demonstrated excellent results in their first year of operation through crisis intervention at their new center.

Having a Crisis Center would afford individuals the opportunity to be in a safe environment with competent staff able to monitor their symptoms. For those who are in a mental illness crisis and/or under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, staff would help them stabilize and safely become sober. All individuals helped through the center could be referred and connected to the most appropriate services for their specific needs. Hospitals would have behavioral health beds freed up to accommodate the patient truly in need of psychiatric care.

A Crisis Center in the northern region, although not convenient for us, would, also, provide the appropriate level of care to our citizens who are in crisis. In the long term, Crisis Centers in each region of the State would provide the type of care and referral necessary to reduce incarceration, hospitalization, suicide rates and family crisis in Idaho.

Reg. II BH Board has established a Crisis Center committee to work on locating a Crisis Facility in this region when the next opportunity is available. We ask for your support when that time comes. Feel free to contact us for additional support in your efforts.

Sincerely,



Jim Rehder, Chair  
Reg. II Behavioral Health Board