



Defining Behavioral Health Crisis Centers vs. Recovery Community Centers

What are Behavioral Health Crisis Centers?

Behavioral Health Crisis Centers are a place for adults to go if they are experiencing a behavioral health crisis, such as suicidal thoughts or withdrawal from drugs, and get help. They can stay for up to 24 hours, and receive a bed, food and services from mental health professionals to decide what to do next.

These centers are accessible to all adults on a voluntary basis and services are free. Established as brick and mortar facilities, these centers operate 24/7/365 and are available to provide evaluation, intervention and referral for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

Key Points:

- Crisis centers are voluntary. Working with law enforcement and other community stakeholders, these centers are a resource for individuals who are willing to seek services but lack the essential resources. These centers help individuals in crisis get the assistance they need without going to the emergency room or being taken to jail.
- An episode of care at a behavioral health crisis center is no more than 23 hours and 59 minutes.
- Services provided include a 24-hour hotline, detox services, crisis intervention and prevention.
- Eligibility for the centers:
 - be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
 - display demonstrated impairment and/or symptom(s) consistent with a behavioral health crisis;
 - be medically stable, and
 - be in need of frequent observation on an ongoing basis.
- The staff of the center will be comprised of three levels of behavioral health professionals:
 - Certified Peer Specialists/Recovery Coaches
 - Clinicians
 - Medical staff (Nurses/EMTs).
- Behavioral health crisis centers are currently operating in all 7 regions of the state and receive funds appropriated by the Idaho Legislature.

What are Recovery Community Centers?

Recovery Community Centers provide a meeting place for those in recovery from alcohol or drug addiction and act as a face for recovery to the community as a whole. These centers connect those in recovery with those seeking recovery to share their strengths and skills and to advocate for the needed resources in the community to make recovery possible for those in need. Building meaningful and healthy ongoing relationships is key to successful recovery and these centers offer the venue for that to happen. While crisis centers serve for a day for a person in crisis, recovery community centers offer recovery for a lifetime. Recovery community center are where hope lives.

A variety of activities can originate at the Recovery Community Center:

- A center is a welcoming meeting place where others can be counted on to provide support when an individual's recovery is feeling shaky. They provide continuity and ongoing service that may have begun in the local crisis center.
- Reliable information is made available on services to those new to recovery, such as housing and transportation assistance as well as on services needed later in the recovery journey such as job advancement and parenting skills.
- Computers with internet services are made available to enhance recoverees' computer skills as well as to provide them with the connectivity that may be needed to do job searches or to stay in touch with family and friends.
- Classes are provided to enhance recoverees' ability to live their lives clean and sober and can cover areas such as job skills, health management, and how to socialize with others without getting high.
- It is a place to give back and to reach out. These centers rely heavily on volunteers to function. Giving back is as powerful to the person volunteering as it is to the recoveree receiving the help.
- It can become an information source for those who are seeking help for themselves or those they care about.
- Idaho currently has 9 recovery centers throughout the State. These centers do not received legislatively appropriated funding.