

Idaho Behavioral Health Alliance Proposal for a Governor's Behavioral Health Strategic Planning and Implementation Group

Broad Charge

Create a five-year strategic action plan, pursuant to known recommendations, to address systemic gaps and roadblocks preventing all adult Idahoans from having equitable access to appropriate behavioral health services.

Justification

The creation of the Governor's Behavioral Health Strategic Planning and Implementation Group is essential to an accountable and coordinated process focused on the long-term improvement and integration of Idaho's behavioral healthcare system. Multiple reports published in recent years provide systemic recommendations to transform and strengthen Idaho's approach to care. A planning and implementation group comprised of engaged stakeholders can most effectively draw upon these recommendations to move Idaho to more comprehensive and cost-effective solutions.

Developing a five-year strategic action plan for a comprehensive behavioral healthcare system is needed now more than ever. The demand for services has increased steadily in recent years due to population growth and continues to rise. Additionally, every county in Idaho is designated as a mental health professional shortage area by the Health Resources and Services Administration. Idaho's current delivery and payment systems, workforce, and public programs are fragmented and ill-equipped to adequately address Idahoans' healthcare needs, resulting in negative impacts on our families and communities. It is imperative that all stakeholders within the behavioral health industry coordinate their efforts to ensure an integrated system that is streamlined and efficient in order to remove unnecessary bureaucratic, financial, and geographic barriers to access for consumers and successfully attain improved health outcomes.

Despite the policy successes experienced by the behavioral health community in recent years, the foundation of Idaho's system is not stable enough to support long-term, sustainable improvements without reform. The upcoming implementation of Medicaid expansion provides a unique opportunity to bolster that foundation by leveraging incoming resources and policy changes to pursue improved health outcomes through an integrated system of care. Additionally, although the implementation of the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) program has made meaningful strides to improving access and quality of services to our youth, those same opportunities are not available to Idaho's adult population. A strategic planning and implementation group can best identify and determine how to bridge the gaps that exist between Idaho's siloed programs in order to promote a more effective continuum of care by streamlining and reorganizing our current administrative structures.

Strategic Planning and Implementation Group Proposals

Process

Develop a five-year strategic action plan for a fully-integrated, accessible, accountable, efficient, and high-quality behavioral healthcare delivery system drawing upon, but not limited to, the recommendations outlined in the 2018 WICHE report. The strategic action plan should also include proposals to address gaps and inefficiencies in current and emerging funding streams and financing, administrative structures, delivery systems, and savings measures.

Desired Outcome(s)

Assemble a five-year strategic action plan to deliver to Governor Little for the 2021 Legislative Session.

Time Frame

February 2020 – September 2020; The 5-year strategic action plan shall be delivered to the Governor no later than October 1, 2020.

Leadership

Co-Chair System: The planning and implementation group co-chairs shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

- One (1) Government Official or Employee
- One (1) Provider, Advocate, Association Representative, or Community Member

Administrative Support

IDHW - Division of Behavioral Health
Idaho Association of Counties

Membership

Members of the planning and implementation group shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

Key Executive Agencies Representing State and Local Government

- Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
- Idaho Department of Insurance
- Idaho Division of Veteran Services
- Idaho State Board of Education/Department of Education
- Idaho Association of Counties
- Public Health Districts

Criminal Justice Experts

- Idaho Department of Correction
- Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections
- Idaho Courts
- Law Enforcement

Consumer Advocacy

- Adult Mental Health Advocate
- Children's Mental Health Advocate
- Substance Abuse Advocate
- Patients' Rights Advocate
- Parent Advocate

Behavioral Health Providers

- Crisis Center Leadership
- Private Behavioral Health Provider
- Idaho Hospital Association / Hospitals
- Private Insurance Provider
- Community Health Clinics
- An expert with experience crafting behavioral health delivery systems

Workforce Development

- Higher Education
- Idaho Workforce Development Council
- Idaho Vocational Rehabilitation

Legislators

- Idaho State Senate Majority Party Member
- Idaho State Senate Minority Party Member
- Idaho State House of Representatives Majority Party Member
- Idaho State House of Representatives Minority Party Member

Subcommittees to Consider

- Children's Mental Health/YES
- Justice Involved Juveniles and Adults
- Prevention
- Rural/Frontier
- Payment/Financing
- Data Collection and Sharing