

In the Supreme Court of the State of Idaho

IN RE: IDAHO BEHAVIORAL)
HEALTH COUNCIL)
_____)

ORDER and
PROCLAMATION

STATING THE FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND JOINING WITH ALL BRANCHES OF STATE GOVERNMENT IN EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION OF THE IDAHO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COUNCIL TO ENGAGE STATE GOVERNMENT, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN A MEANINGFUL REVIEW OF AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE MATERIALLY REVISE, IDAHO'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM.

WHEREAS: On February 19, 2020, the Idaho Supreme Court and leaders from the Legislative Branch joined me as I signed an executive order creating the Idaho Behavioral Health Council ("Council"). The Council was to be a collaborative effort with all three branches working to address the behavioral health needs of Idahoans. In support of this three-branch effort and the Council's creation, the Idaho Supreme Court issued a proclamation and the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 126 (2020); and

WHEREAS: All three branches of state government recognized at that time the tremendous social and economic value would inure to the people of Idaho with the strategic development of a more effective behavioral health system that was devised, implemented, and sustained statewide, and

WHEREAS: All three branches of state government further recognized that that the separate branches of Idaho government, local governments, and community partners play an integral role together in ensuring a reliable and productive behavioral health system for the people of Idaho; and

WHEREAS: In nearly four (4) years of existence, the Council has recommended numerous policy accomplishments that have been successfully enacted, adopted, and funded, including, but not limited to:

1. Strengthening the state's crisis response system by establishing the 988 statewide crisis and suicide hotline and funding four (4) youth crisis centers across the state.

2. Supporting and facilitating partnerships to stand up five (5) Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers based on the successful nationwide model to provide comprehensive behavioral health care.
3. Sponsoring Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) workshops in each of the seven (7) judicial districts, empowering local stakeholders to implement action plans to improve local access to behavioral health resources, such as connecting additional services to individuals leaving jail or the crisis center.
4. Developing a Behavioral Health Workforce Plan, resulting in the Recovery Coach Academy, the Behavioral Health Center of Excellence, and other initiatives to expand the number and quality of credentialed behavioral health care workers.
5. Opening Safe Teen Assessment Centers, including in rural areas, to provide a resource for law enforcement, schools, and families to prevent and divert youth from entering the juvenile justice or child welfare systems.
6. Providing funding to stand up three Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF) in Idaho to bring home over one hundred (100) children/youth being cared for in other states.
7. Improving the civil commitment process by passing Senate Bill 1327 (2022) and drafting further revisions to be proposed in future legislative sessions; and

WHEREAS: In 2021, recognizing the success of the Council in recommending the statewide strategic plan, Idaho Code§ 57-825 was enacted empowering the Council to make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature on how moneys deposited in the State-Directed Opioid Settlement Fund should be used; and

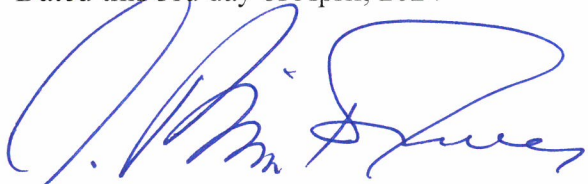
WHEREAS: Idaho has demonstrated a commitment to improving the behavioral health system and has previously made considerable improvements to the system; and

WHEREAS: Notwithstanding these significant improvements and investments particularly over the last four (4) years-it is in the best interest of all Idahoans that the Council be reauthorized so that it can lead and coordinate across all branches and levels of government, and make recommendations to policymakers for the continued improvement of the state's behavioral health system;

THEREFORE: All three branches of Idaho Government, Local Governments, and Community Partners should collaborate to develop a statewide strategic plan to inventory, audit, assess, and materially improve Idaho's behavioral health system to the benefit of all Idahoans.

To effectuate this statewide strategic plan, the Idaho Supreme Court hereby supports the creation of the Idaho Behavioral Health Council by Governor Brad Little and appoints Administrative Director of the Courts, Sara Omundson, District Judge Gene Petty, and Dave Jeppesen to participate on the Council.

Dated this 3rd day of April, 2024



Honorable Chief Justice G. Richard Bevan

ATTEST:



Clerk