

Idaho Behavioral Health Council

Regular Meeting

October 30, 2026

Vision for Idaho's Behavioral Health System

It is our vision that adults, children, youth and their families who live with mental illness and addiction **receive the behavioral healthcare services they need when they need them.**

IBHC Guiding Principles

1) Consumer and Family Voice

Because the voices of consumers of services and their families are crucial to proper implementation of the Idaho Behavioral Health Council's strategic action plan, we commit to include them as indispensable partners in program design, implementation, and evaluation.

2) Cross-System Collaboration

We commit to utilize an inclusive and collaborative approach in the implementation of behavioral health strategic action plan.

3) Promote Evidence and Best Practices

We commit to using known effective practices through the design and implementation of the strategic action plan, including best practices for funding services and supports.

4) Recovery and Resiliency Oriented

We commit to designing a system that focuses on the lifelong process of improving wellness and strives to assist consumers and families in reaching their full potential.

5) Equitable Access

We commit to implementing a system with equal access for all Idahoans regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation. We commit observing all rights as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

6) Financially Sustainable

We commit to designing and implementing a behavioral health system that is effective, efficient, and financially sustainable.

7) Quality, Accountability, and Outcomes

We commit to transparent and continuous evaluation of quality and outcome measures in all programs and services to achieve the best possible outcomes for Idahoans and to achieve effective/efficient use of public dollars

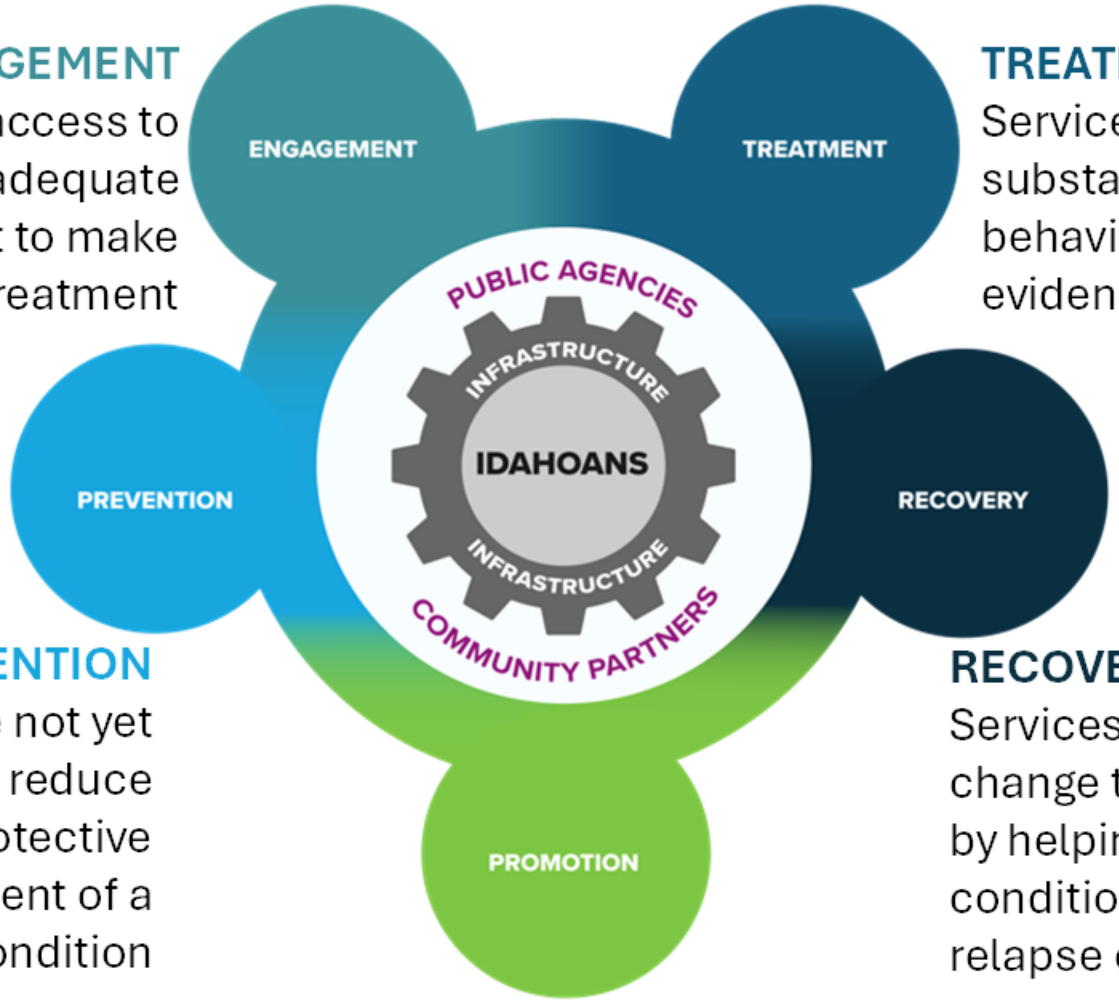
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM FRAMEWORK

ENGAGEMENT

Strategies to deliver optimal access to healthcare by giving adequate information and support to make decisions about treatment

TREATMENT

Services for those diagnosed with a substance use disorder or other behavioral health condition, ideally evidence-based and client centered



PREVENTION

Services and programs for those not yet in need of treatment designed to reduce risk factors and promote protective factors to prevent the development of a behavioral health condition

RECOVERY

Services to support the process of change to improve health and wellness by helping manage behavioral health conditions to minimize the risk of relapse or recurrence

PROMOTION

Supports behavioral health and the ability of individuals to withstand challenging conditions in their environment
Reinforces the entire continuum of behavioral health services

Help the Helpers



Competency Restoration

October 30th, 2026



Team Leadership

Initiative Owners
Jennifer Burlage
Ellie Merrick
Laura Treat
Tim Thompson
Adult Sub-Team Leads
Sarah Bickford
Kristin Green
Youth Sub-Team Leads
Amanda Goldston
Amy Brogan

Adult Team Report Out

Conduct a comprehensive assessment and analyze ways to reform the competency to stand trial system.

- Action Item 1 – Gather and analyze statewide data on competency evaluations and restoration
- Action Item 2 – Identify and review best practices from other states
- Action Item 3 – Engage stakeholders in policy and system review
- Action Item 4 – Assess workforce and infrastructure capacity

Creation of the CR Adult sub team

- Progress:
  - 8 meetings successfully held through July 2026
  - Participants include: judges, prosecutors, public defenders, State Hospitals, Idaho Supreme Court, psychologists and psychiatrist, community hospitals (IMH), Developmental Disabilities, and the Division of Behavioral Health.
- Roadblocks Encountered
  - Attendance dipped during summer months and it was decided that we would not meet during the summer
  - Miscommunication initially regarding the purpose and end result of the sub team
  - Issues regarding data collection
- Next meeting scheduled for Nov 5th

Action 1 – Gather and analyze statewide data on competency evaluations and restoration

- Identified the data that we have ready access to.
  - BH WITS, SH general data, DD services
- Identified several roadblocks related to data:
  - Data is likely limited based on EHR's
  - Unable to obtain data from the courts
  - Current systems do not have the ability to track the data the teams feels is necessary.
- Working on:
  - Creating a document related to the data we do have
  - Identifying data gaps and making recommendations for future data collection

Action Item 2 – Identify and review best practices from other states

- The team has identified a variety of states to compare.
  - Looked at states that have recently made changes to CR
  - States similar to Idaho
  - States that have been providing robust CR
- The team is gathering information to create a white paper with the information and recommendations for Idaho CR.

Action 3 – Engage stakeholders in policy and system review

- The team is creating a survey to send to stakeholders regarding issues they have experienced, roadblocks, and what is going well.
  - Identified stakeholders to survey
  - Have begun creating the survey
- Complete survey

Action 4 – Assess workforce and infrastructure capacity

- This area will be addressed after completion of Action Item 3.

Youth Team Report Out

Establish a multidisciplinary group to review Juvenile Statute I.C. 20-519

- Action Item 5 – Form a Juvenile Competency Review Workgroup
- Action Item 6 – Collect and Analyze Data on the Use of I.C. 20-519
- Action Item 7 – Gather Stakeholder Feedback
- Action Item 8 – Review National Best Practices for Juvenile Competency and Diversion

Action 5 –
Form a Juvenile Competency Review Workgroup

- **Progress Highlights**
  - 12 meetings successfully held through July 2026
  - Participation has included representatives from multiple counties, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, probation officers, IDJC, Developmental Disabilities, and the Division of Behavioral Health.
- **Roadblocks Encountered**
  - Attendance dipped during summer months
  - Transition in subcommittee leadership created brief slowdowns
- **Next Steps**
  - Continue meeting regularly to complete remaining tasks
  - Next meeting scheduled for Nov 16th
  - Develop a written report summarizing 12 meetings

Action 6 –
Collect and Analyze Data on the Use of I.C. 20-519

- **Progress Highlights**
  - Five years of data from Developmental Disabilities has been gathered and presented to the subcommittee
  - Clinical Services Bureau data has been developed and is ready for analysis and presentation
  - Stakeholder survey is fully developed and scheduled for distribution by the end of October
- **Roadblocks Encountered**
  - Clinical Services Bureau data has been challenging to collect due to changes in the Electronic Health Record (EHR) system
- **Next Steps**
  - Present Clinical Services Bureau data to the subcommittee
  - Analyze combined data sets and develop recommendations

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Action 7 – Gather Stakeholder Feedback

- **Progress Highlights**
  - Stakeholder and family surveys have been fully developed and are nearly ready for distribution
  - A statewide list of stakeholders is being compiled, including email contacts for survey dissemination
- **Roadblocks Encountered**
  - Difficulty gathering accurate and complete email addresses for statewide stakeholders
  - Due to challenges with Clinical Services Bureau data, developing a randomly selected list of families for the family survey is still in progress
- **Next Steps**
  - Surveys planned for distribution by the end of October
  - Receive, review, and analyze incoming survey data to inform recommendations

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Action 8 – Review National Best Practices for Juvenile Competency & Diversion

- **Progress Highlights**
  - Information on juvenile competency systems from various states has been gathered
  - Findings were presented to the subcommittee on July 20
  - IDJC is conducting a statewide survey on diversion programs
- **Roadblocks Encountered**
  - IDJC's statewide survey on diversion programs is currently on hold; this data was intended to inform the subcommittee's report
  - With 44 counties operating diversion programs in 44 different ways—and not all contributing data to the system—it will be challenging to gather consistent information without the IDJC survey results
- **Next Steps**
  - Prepare a report analyzing other states' juvenile competency systems
  - Await IDJC survey results to incorporate into the diversion program analysis and final report

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Questions?



Thank you!





Program Awareness & Reduction of Stigma

Promotion #1:
Program Awareness and Reduction of Stigma

- Develop an outreach and marketing strategy to increase awareness of publicly and privately funded programs and services.
- Address and reduce behavioral health stigma.



IDOC Data Sensitivity Classification - L3 Restricted



Program Awareness & Reduction of Stigma Implementation Team

Sponsors:

- Idaho Behavioral Health Council

Team Membership:

- State Government
- Higher Ed
- Nonprofits
- General Public

Original Action Items



Integrate 211 and findhelpidaho.org as the central database of services available facilitating a no-wrong door approach



Implement Sources of Strength Program / Education for educators, teachers, and parents



Recommend educational programs tailored to rural Idahoans to reduce stigma, increase awareness, and improve understanding of mental health

211 and FindHelpIdaho.org Integration





- They are in process of moving the existing 211- Navigation resources to FindHelp's database. Expected to be fully operational in November.
- Co-branded materials are available
- DHW contracted with FindHelp national to recruit nonprofits and maintain the database
  - ICRN teams developed 400 new priority resources to add to FindHelp
  - Resources for foster youth & families, parenting & early childhood support, behavioral health, public health districts

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

IDAHO COMMUNITY RESOURCE NETWORK

One System. Multiple Pathways. Support that meets people where they are.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Partners maintain resource data, improve referrals, and support individuals seeking help.

findhelpidaho.org

Individuals and families can search for assistance directly on findhelpidaho.org, Idaho's statewide resource directory. They can explore programs across housing, food, transportation, behavioral health, employment, childcare, aging services, and more—filtering by location, eligibility, and service type.

CENTRALIZED RESOURCE PLATFORM

Up-to-date information powering all pathways to support.

MULTIPLE PATHWAYS TO GET HELP

Idahoans can access support in the way that works best for them.

1. 211 IDAHO CARELINE

Entry Point for Anyone in Idaho

The 211 Idaho CareLine is Idaho's front door for community resources. Anyone can call, text, or get help from a trained resource specialist.

- call 211 or 1-800-926-2588
- text 898211
- resource specialist available

WHAT TO EXPECT

Resource specialists listen, understand needs, and connect callers to the best next steps—including resources, programs, or referrals.

2. RESOURCE AND SERVICE NAVIGATION PROGRAM

Referral for Higher-Needs Support

For more complex or ongoing needs, resource specialists can refer individuals and families to the Resource and Service Navigation Program.

- Personalized Support
- Short-Term Case Management (120 days or less)
- Connect to Ongoing Assistance

WHAT TO EXPECT

Navigators work with individuals and families to stabilize situations, connect to services, and build pathways toward long-term stability through holistic support.

3. CARE PORTAL

Connection to Local Faith Partners

When needs are specific, tangible, or best met locally, navigators can connect individuals to local faith partners through Care Portal.

- Local Faith Partners
- Direct Assistance & Support
- Meet Immediate Needs

WHAT TO EXPECT

Faith partners provide direct help with essentials and connect families to additional local support.

BUILT ON TRUST & COMMUNITY

- ✓ Statewide network
- ✓ Local relationships
- ✓ Compassionate, person-centered support
- ✓ No wrong door—just different paths

EXAMPLES OF SUPPORT

Housing · Food · Transportation · Behavioral Health · Employment · Childcare & Family · And More

ACCESS IS EASY

- call 211 or 1-800-926-2588
- text 898211
- resource specialist available

Help is here. Whenever you need it. However you need it.

findhelpidaho.org — Powered by United Ways of Idaho

211 Idaho CareLine • DHW

RESOURCE AND SERVICE NAVIGATION

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

Resources for Schools – Original Action Items

Education for educators, teachers, and parents

- Resources are already available, and they are catalogued here

Sources of Strength Program

- Fantastic student-led mental wellness program that should be offered everywhere
- Resources are already available for schools who want to implement Sources of Strength

Resources for Schools – Updated Action Item



- FindHelpIdaho.org on school district websites
- Empowered Supporter campaign
  - Based on mandatory reporter role
  - Empowered supporter cards sent to every K-12 educator: teachers, administrators, school nurses
  - SRO training on identifying needs and connecting families
  - SDE webinar, IEA professional development
- Idaho School Board Association
- Community Schools Best Practices
  - Private telehealth space for counseling

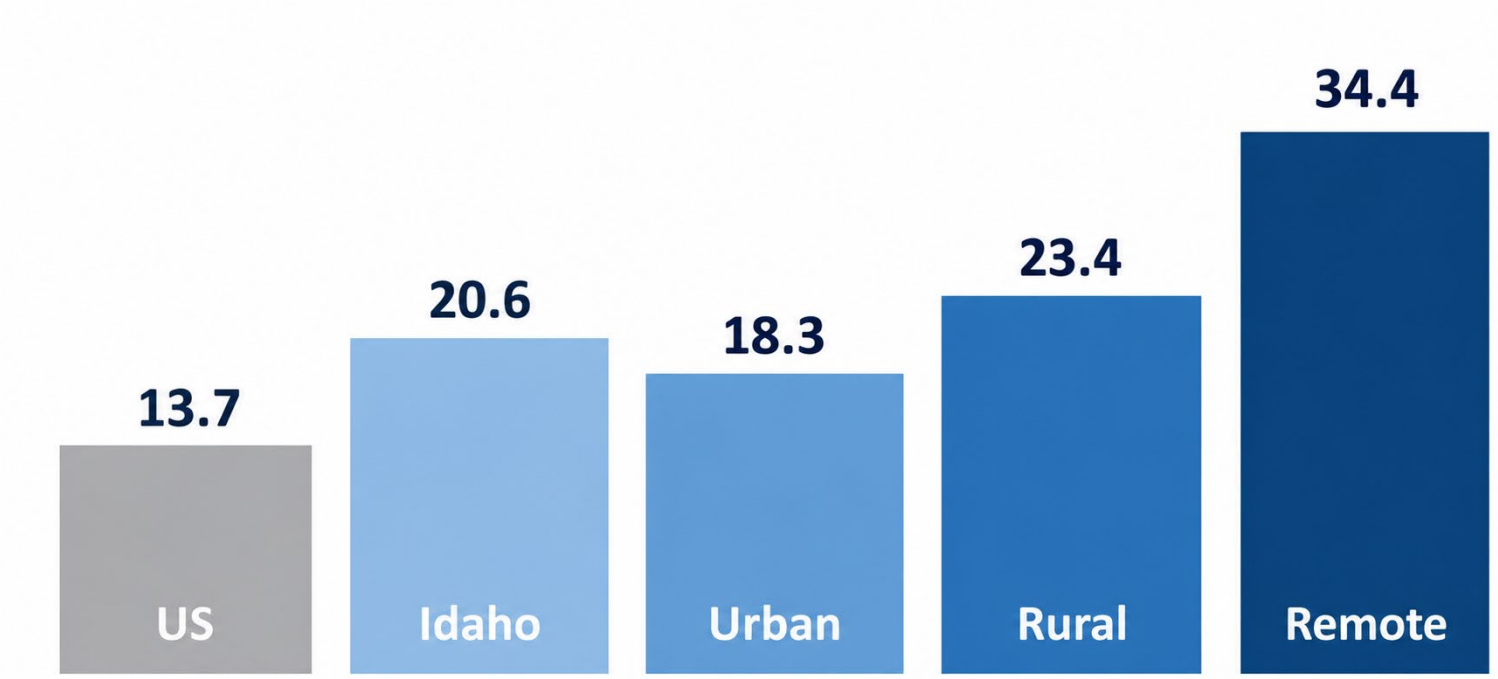
IDOC Data Sensitivity Classification - L3 Restricted

Education and Outreach to Rural Idahoans

Original Action Items



2025 Idaho Suicide Rate per 100,000



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Suicide Prevention Program Campaigns

- Promote awareness of 988 for Idaho Crisis & Suicide Hotline (ICSH)
- Encourage the audience to recognize and respond to signs of suicide risk
- Reduce stigma of health seeking behaviors, and ultimately, promote togetherness of Idahoans



January - June 2026 Campaign

- 9,720,276 impressions
- 50,042 clicks leading to 988 website
- 33,114 clicks to play videos about 988

Suicide Prevention Program Data Trends

	2023	2024	2025
Suicide Rate/100K Residents	23.3	21.8	20.6
ED Visits for Suicide Attempts and Ideation	12,488	11,547	10,733
ICSH 988 Call/Text/Chat Volume	22,591	25,567	30,402

Service Awareness and Navigation

- Formerly worked with Empower Idaho
  - Excellent website with national and local behavioral health resources is still up, but not maintained by Jannus

- Behavioral health resources included on findhelpidaho.org

Skills-Based Training

Mental Health FIRST AID

QPR INSTITUTE

Anti-Stigma Campaign Best Practices

WICHC Stigma Reduction Project Team

- Mental Health & Wellbeing Workshops
- Best Practices for Reducing Stigma Through Effective Compassionate Communication



WESTERN IDAHO
COMMUNITY HEALTH
COLLABORATIVE

Program Awareness & Reduction of Stigma



Questions?

October 30, 2026

IBHC Supportive Housing



Recovery #1 Supportive Housing

- Increase availability of supportive housing for people with behavioral health conditions.



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Supportive Housing Implementation Team

Agency Sponsors:

- Idaho Department of Correction
- Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Team Membership:

- State and local government
- Nonprofit
- Healthcare
- Researchers
- Lived experience

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Developing Action Items

Expand supportive housing options

- Severely lacking in housing for lower levels of support, which tend to be a better fit for those exiting incarceration.

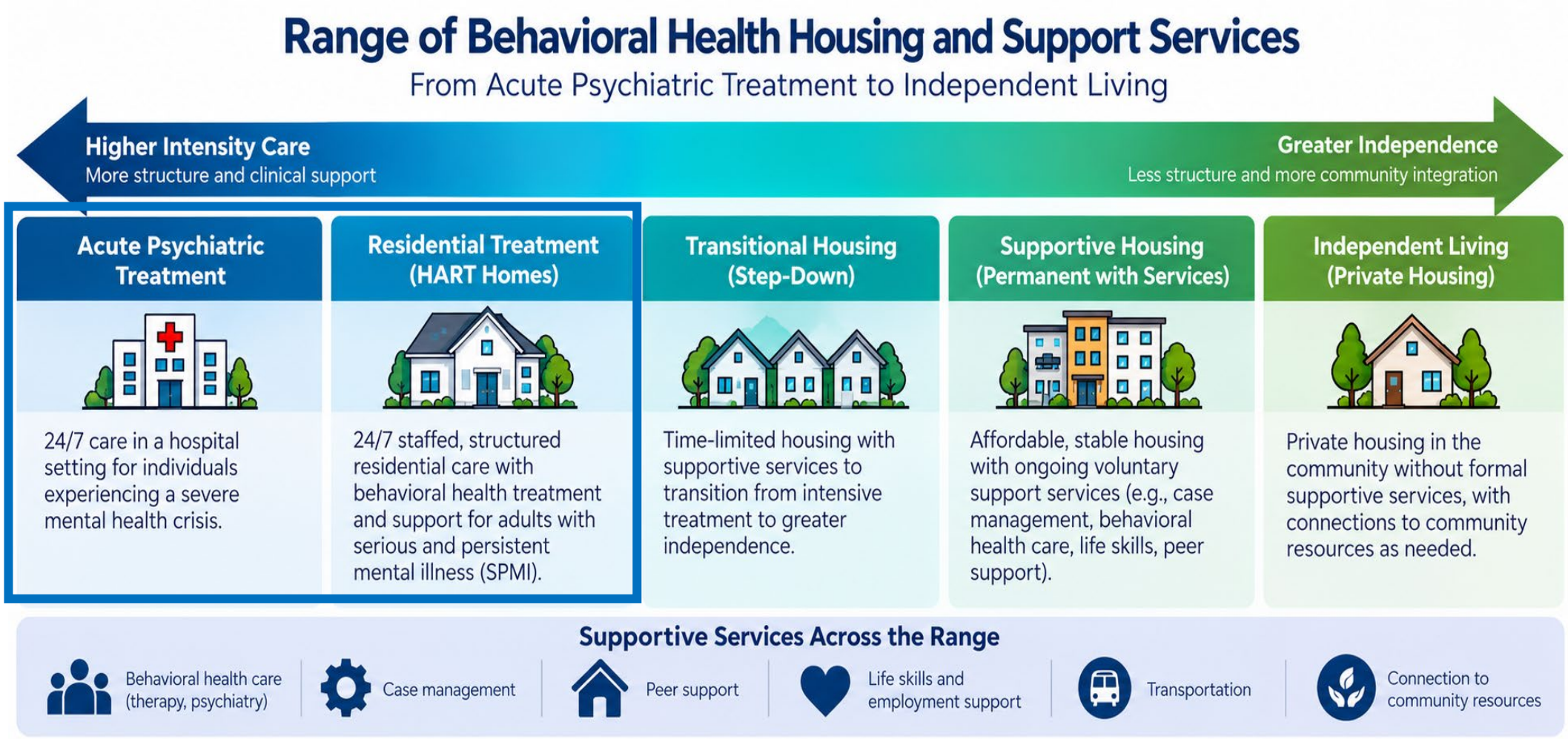
Focus on Populations

- Exiting state hospitals
- Exiting incarceration

Education about Supportive Housing

- Opportunities for property owners
- Cost savings and public safety for policymakers

Range of Supportive Housing



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State Hospital Population

Reviewed Medicaid and Magellan care guidelines to determine availability of services

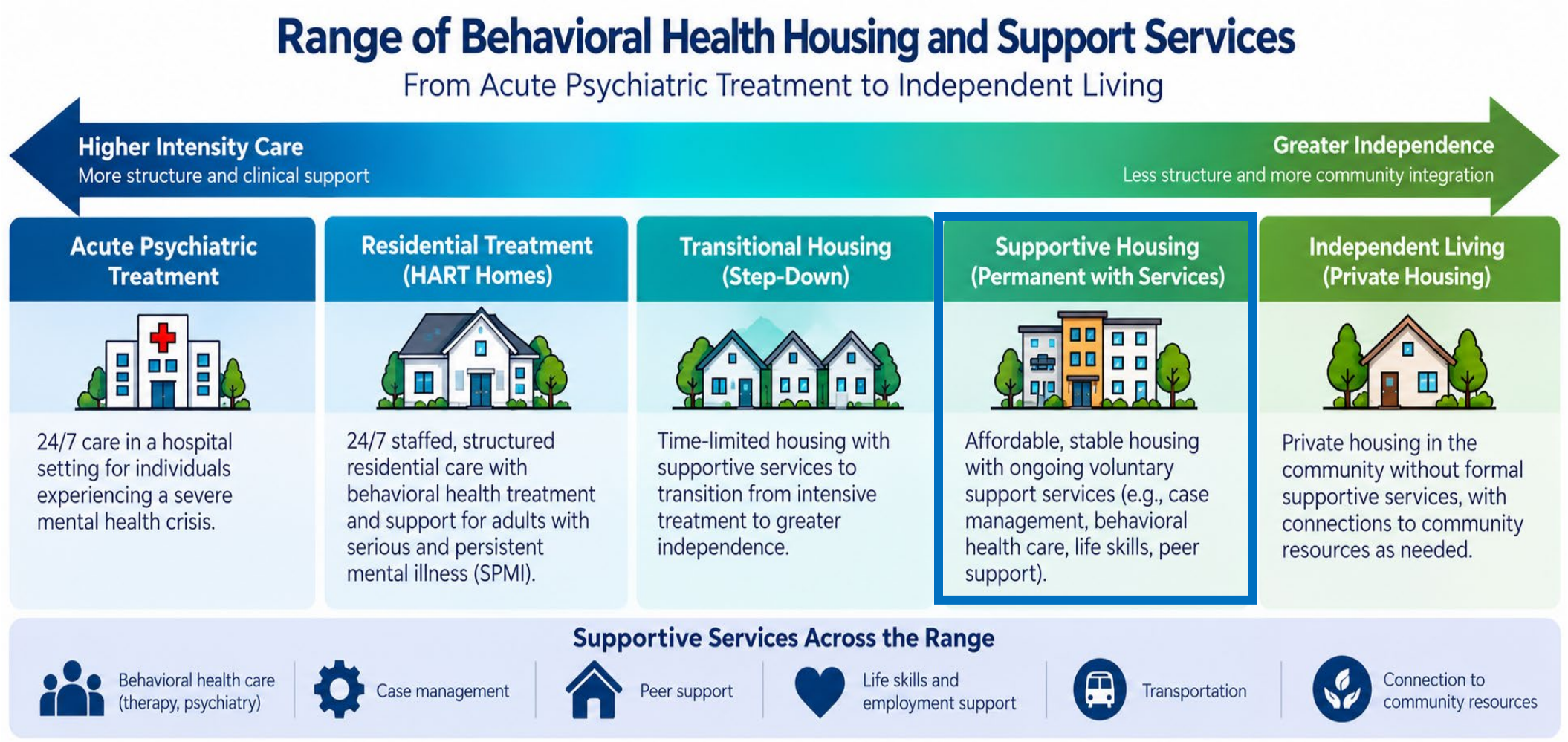
Reviewed existing research around Idaho demand for supportive housing

Looked at data and discharge processes for State Hospitals

- Living arrangement upon discharge
- Navigators and treatment coordinators

Next steps – Pursue education of property owners and policymakers toward developing more supportive housing opportunities

Range of Supportive Housing



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Criminal Justice Involved Sub-Committee

1. Zero Returns to Homelessness Grant December 2024

2. Reviewed Nationwide Supportive Housing Programs
   - Focused on impact and programs demonstrating evidence-based practices.

3. Data Request between IDOC and HMIS systems
   - Where do homelessness and corrections intersect?

4. Propose Creation of the “Idaho Model”

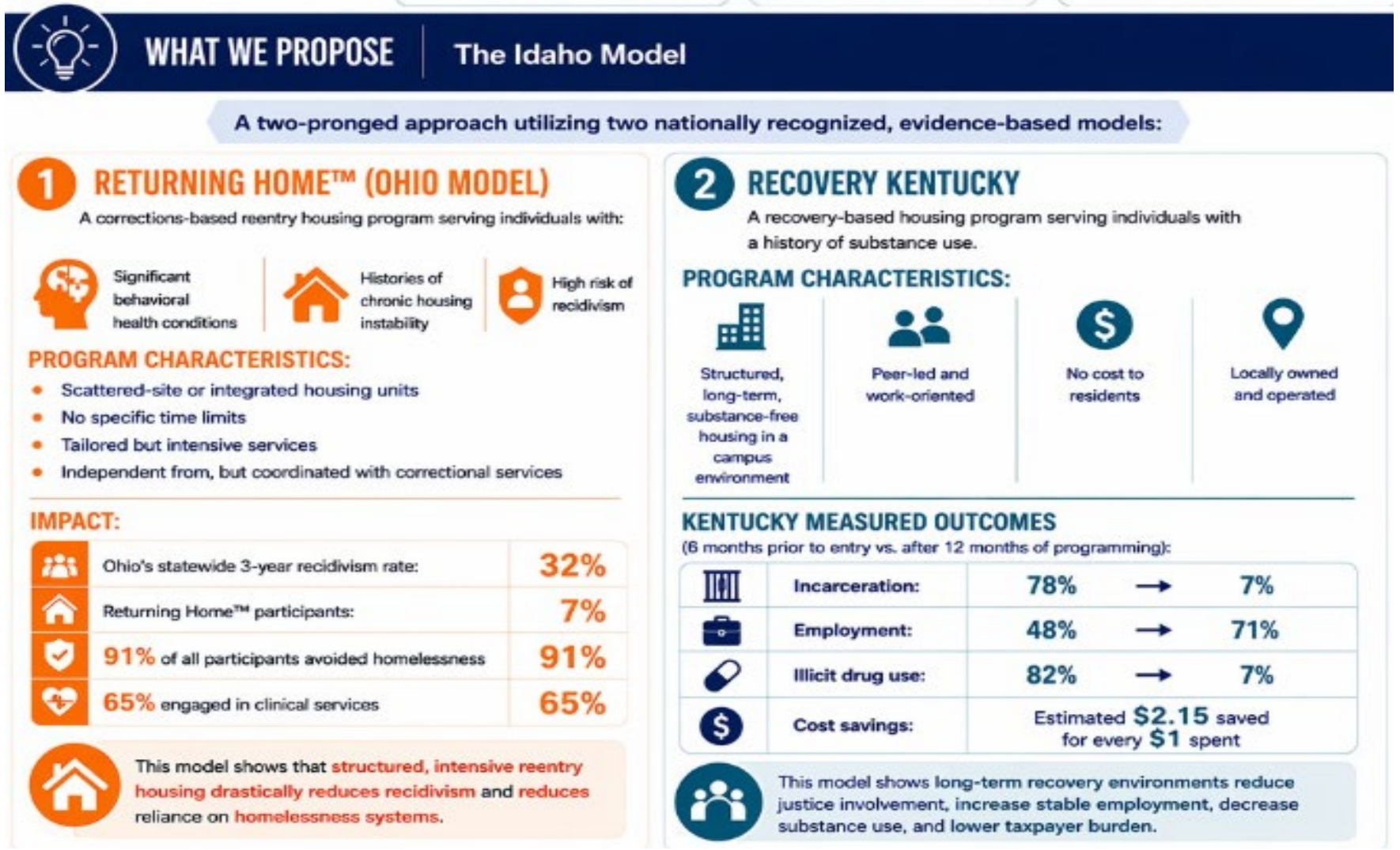
What the Data Tells Us

- Key Findings:
  - 1 in 8 (13%) IDOC-involved individuals accessed homelessness response services
    - 49.8% had an emergency shelter record
    - Women were nearly twice as likely as men to access homelessness response services.
  - Repeat incarceration was associated with greater homelessness-system involvement.
  - About 17- 27% of individuals accessing homelessness response services across Idaho were also under IDOC custody during 2018-2025.
    - 11.9% also received homelessness services in more than one part of the state.

Why it Matters

- Idaho's criminal justice and homelessness response systems serve overlapping but not homogeneous populations.
- Different populations may require different interventions.
- The lower rates of subsequent incarceration were observed among individuals entering rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing.
- Stronger coordination and continuity across systems, coupled with services tailored to individuals' level and type of need, may help people stabilize in the community, reduce reliance on emergency homelessness services, and reduce both housing instability and future justice-system involvement.

Proposal: The Idaho Model



Feedback

- Is the proposed Idaho Model viable?
- What additional information is needed?
- Who are we missing from our team?
  - Department of Health and Welfare representative
- Are there ideas for funding sources?



Next Steps

- Implement IBHC feedback
- Coordinate stakeholder connections
- Funding exploration
- Implementation planning
- Educate policymakers and potential community partners

Schedule Next Meetings



THANK YOU!