



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

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Behavioral Health Transformation Legislation

Issue: The behavioral health system of care in Idaho has been studied and evaluated several times in the past decade. Each evaluation has resulted in recommendations for improvements. While there has been progress made, it has focused on small refinements to the existing system. It is time to make meaningful changes to the behavioral health system in Idaho that reflects the recommendations from the hundreds of stakeholders that have contributed to these recommendations.

Proposal: This legislation modifies I.C. Title 39, Chapter 31 to achieve three (3) major steps in the transformation of Idaho's behavioral health system of care. First, it eliminates the silos that separate the existing mental health and substance use disorders systems by integrating them into a single, unified behavioral health system. Second, it establishes Regional Behavioral Health Boards to provide communities the opportunity to have greater influence over their local behavioral health system and increased responsibility if they choose. Lastly, the legislation establishes clearly defined roles and responsibilities for the Regional Mental Health Centers, the Regional Behavioral Health Boards and the State Behavioral Health Planning Council.

Specifics:

- The legislation will create a Behavioral Health Interagency Cooperative to advise the Department on issues related to individuals with behavioral health concerns who are involved with the criminal justice system.
- The legislation combines Regional Mental Health Boards and Regional Advisory Committees on substance abuse into a comprehensive Regional Behavioral Health Board.
- The Department will provide \$45,000 in base funding per Regional Behavioral Health Board out of existing funds, and will contract with the boards for the organization and delivery of recovery support services.
- The legislation modifies the existing State Mental Health Planning Council to include substance use disorders. It will become the State Behavioral Health Planning Council.
- The legislation defines the responsibilities of the Department's Regional Behavioral Health Service Centers.

Benefits/Value of Proposal:

- Prepares Idaho for the changes in health care to ensure there is a safety net to assist those in need of behavioral health services.
- Develops a system of recovery support services, which are typically not covered by insurance.
- Moves some of the leadership and influence over the behavioral health system to the community level.
- Clearly articulates the appropriate role and responsibility of the Department in Idaho's behavioral health system of care.

For more information contact Ross Edmunds at 208.334.6997 or edmundsr@dhw.idaho.gov.



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Behavioral Health Regional Community Crisis Centers

Issue: People with mental illnesses and/or substance abuse issues are taken to hospital emergency rooms or jails when they suffer a crisis or exhibit severe behavioral problems that put themselves or others in danger. Hospital ER and incarceration are frustrating, expensive and sometimes inhumane alternatives that do not effectively address the illness or addiction. However, ERs and jails are often the only options available.

Proposal: Develop three regional crisis centers that serve area communities 24/7. The request will provide the initial startup funds with a goal of developing community partnerships for long-term sustainability. The crisis centers can be modeled from the best practices developed by other states' successful crisis centers. Based on outcomes, efficiencies and partnerships, centers could be expanded to subsequent regions of the state over the next several years.

Specifics:

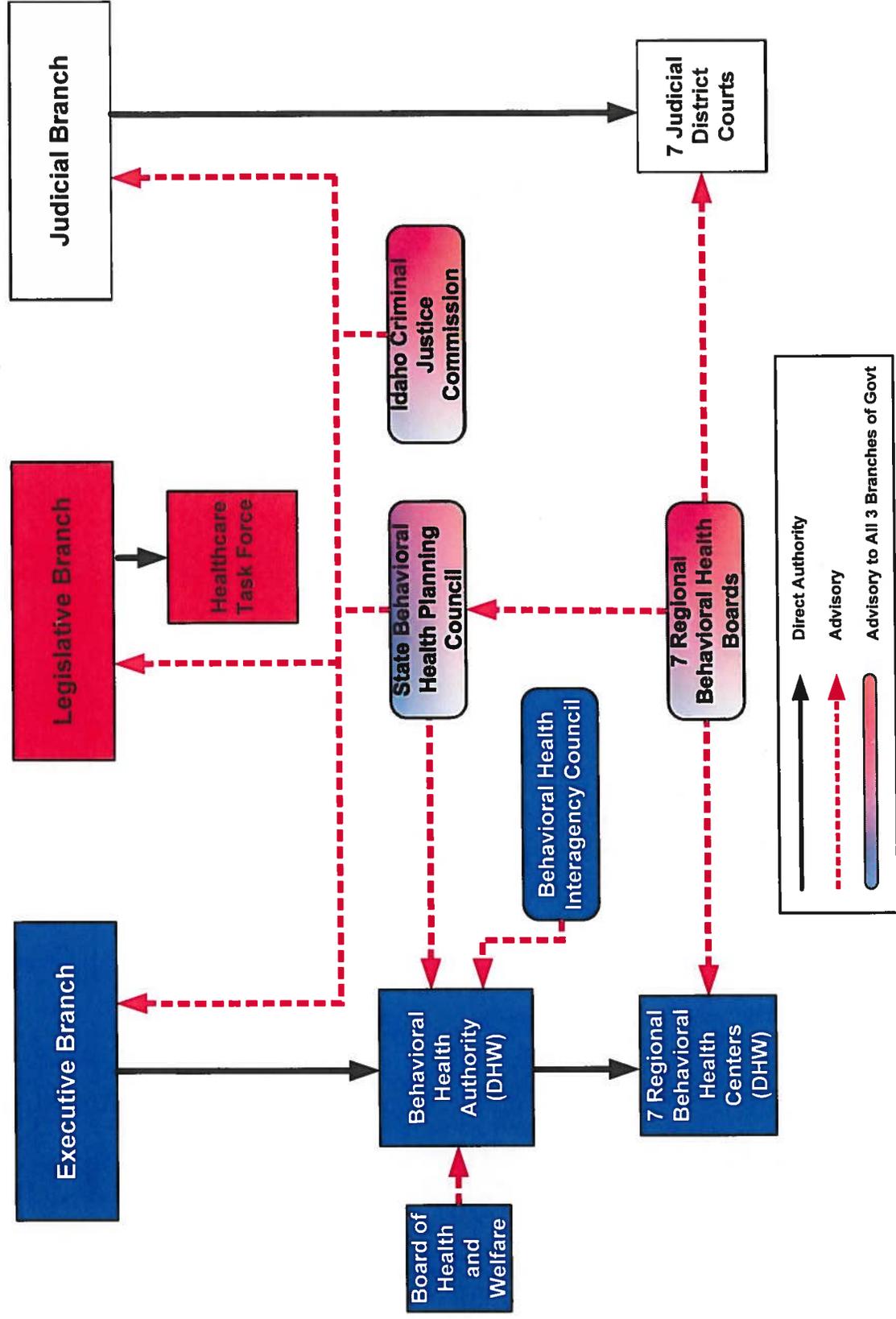
- **Location:** One crisis center in the Coeur d'Alene area, one in the Idaho Falls area and the third in the Boise area.
- **Capacity:** Each center will maintain 15 to 25 patient slots per day, with episodes of care less than 24 hours.
- **Administration:** Daily operations will be contracted with community partners, with oversight from regional behavioral health boards.
- **Cost:** \$5,160,000, with \$600,000 in one-time costs and \$4,560,000 in ongoing operating costs.
- **Sustainability:** Centers will leverage community financial and in-kind support. Other states have generated sustainable funding as they reduced hospitalizations, incarcerations and emergency room use.

Benefits/Value of Proposal:

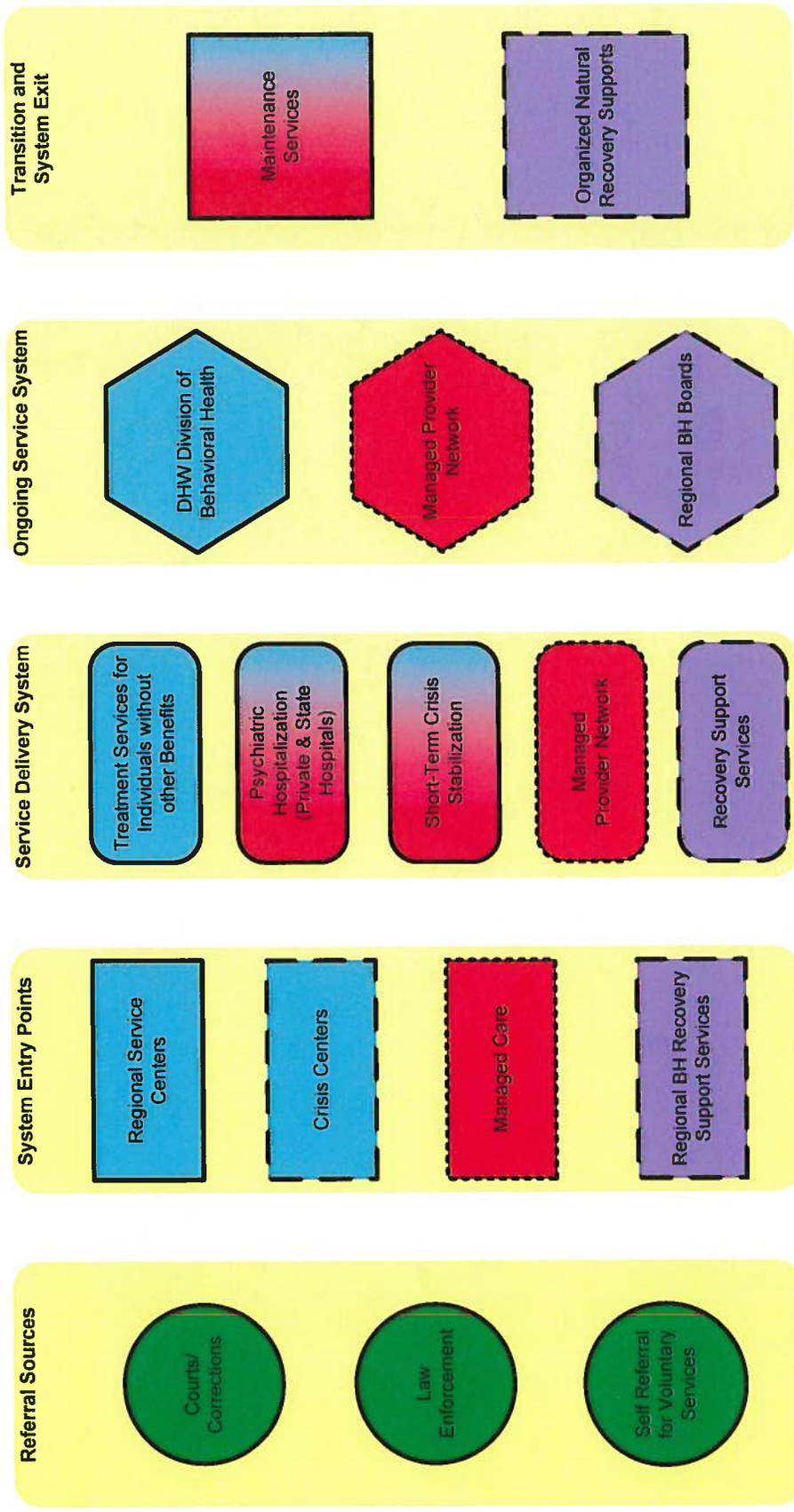
- Reduce the wasted resources and frustration of cities and counties who constantly deal with these situations.
- Reduce inappropriate ER use, preserving resources for people with medical emergencies.
- Reduce inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations that are unnecessary and wasteful.
- Reduce the risk of litigation related to inadequate publicly funded mental health services.
- Provide more effective and humane treatment for people suffering from severe mental illnesses or addictions.

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State of Idaho Behavioral Health Proposed Organizational Structure



PUBLIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM REDESIGN (4-19-2013)



█ Referring Sources
█ DHW Division of Behavioral Health
█ Shared Responsibility (Division of BH & Managed Care)
█ Managed Care Network
█ Regional BH Recovery Support Services

Current System Resource
 Recommended System Resource
 Resources Currently being Implemented