

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 54

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND REQUESTING A REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE ON THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR IMPROVING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT IN THE STATE OF IDAHO.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, Idaho is experiencing high rates of suicide among adults, children and adolescents; and

WHEREAS, mental health services and resources in Idaho are provided in multiple departments and divisions of the state government, resulting in fragmentation of service delivery; and

WHEREAS, the number of involuntary detentions for people experiencing mental health crises is increasing; and

WHEREAS, service needs for inpatient care of mentally ill adolescents have increased significantly over the last decade; and

WHEREAS, persons being admitted to the state hospitals are exhibiting increased acuity, requiring more seclusion, restraint and one-on-one monitoring; and

WHEREAS, Idaho prisons and jails have high percentages of inmates with serious mental illness; and

WHEREAS, a report of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education found in 2008 that Idaho's public behavioral health system was overly reliant on high-cost inpatient care, crisis care and incarceration to meet demands for community-based services; and

WHEREAS, Idaho has entered into a settlement agreement in the *Jeff D. v. Otter* case, which requires significant changes to children's mental health services in Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Welfare is the mental health authority for Idaho pursuant to section 39-3123, Idaho Code, and is responsible for overseeing Idaho's behavioral health system of care; and

WHEREAS, the department is required by section 39-3123, Idaho Code, to "report utilization, performance, outcome and other quality assurance data ... on an annual basis"; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that the department has already taken several critical steps to transform Idaho's behavioral health system, including:

(1) Creation of local authorities and boards that may serve as transformational catalysts in their communities;

(2) Initiation, at the direction of the Legislature, of managed care for Medicaid behavioral health to improve the quality of the provider network and availability of evidence-based outpatient services;

(3) Development of behavioral health community crisis centers in multiple regions across the state to more humanely and efficiently care for Idahoans suffering from behavioral health crises;

1 (4) Formation of a partnership with a research institution to evaluate
2 the behavioral needs of Idahoans;

3 (5) Creation of multiple behavioral health recovery centers to support
4 Idahoans in recovery from mental health and substance use disorders;

5 (6) Oversight of Idaho's behavioral health system of care in accordance
6 with legislation; and

7 (7) Implementation of a single electronic health record for use across
8 the department's programs on mental health and substance use disorders;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the need for the state to continue
11 investing in programs that provide care and treatment to Idahoans with seri-
12 ous behavioral health disorders.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
14 sion of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
15 the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature requests that the De-
16 partment of Health and Welfare present a report to the First Regular Session
17 of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature on the department's strategic plan for
18 statewide behavioral health services.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report be presented in person by a rep-
20 resentative of the Department of Health and Welfare to the Senate and House
21 of Representatives Health and Welfare committees at a time agreed upon by the
22 committee chairmen and the department.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report include the following:

24 (1) How and when behavioral health services can be coordinated between
25 the departments and divisions of the state government;

26 (2) How the Department of Health and Welfare plans to implement a be-
27 havioral health system of care with treatment and support services that
28 meets the needs of Idahoans with serious behavioral health disorders;

29 (3) How the department will improve behavioral health managed care ini-
30 tiatives, including an analysis of whether Idaho's Medicaid plan should
31 include inpatient and medication treatment and track the total cost of
32 care;

33 (4) How the department will monitor the effectiveness of treatment and
34 the data collection methods it will employ; and

35 (5) Recommendations to the Legislature on how best to implement the
36 behavioral health strategic plan, which recommendations shall include
37 options for providing health benefits to Idahoans that meet their be-
38 havioral health treatment and support needs, changes to law and rule
39 that would be necessary to provide the quality and oversight essential
40 to continuing the transformation of Idaho's behavioral health system of
41 care, and the resources necessary to continue this transformation.