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NewsBlast

Essential News for You and Your Family



IDAHO FEDERATION OF
Families
FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Idaho Federation of Families NewsBlast

February 2016

The following Federation NewsBlast is our E-newsletter highlighting exciting opportunities, important information and some community calendar activities that may be of interest.



We very much encourage organizations and individuals to notify our office when you have relevant upcoming community events that we may share in our monthly Federation NewsBlasts. Call us in Boise at 208-433-8845 or 1-800-905-3436.



Steve's Space

I'm so glad to hear that we will no longer be concerned about breaking the law every time we sing Happy Birthday. Yes, no more royalty payments due that go unpaid, Happy Birthday will soon be in the public domain. I am also glad to hear that very soon respite care funds will be available to many, many more Idaho families.

Thanks to Ross Edmunds and the Department of Behavioral Health, as well as advocates throughout the state, eligibility for families to access existing respite care funding through

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Children's Mental Health will be expanded. In addition, another plan that would greatly expand available funding and access to respite care funds has been included in the budget proposed to the legislature. The need for respite care and assistance paying for it has been one of the top service requests made by families and an advocacy priority of the Federation. Yes Virginia, advocacy does lead to action.

But like most good things, there is a hitch..... who will provide the respite care? Currently, a family with respite funding can hire anyone they choose to provide respite, be it a family member, friend or professional but very often, there is no one willing or able to be found to provide the service. Although the Federation maintains a statewide directory of respite care providers who have passed a background check and watched a short Federation training webinar, the number of folks listed are few. Respite care is needed and so are respite care providers. See below for more on this need and what you can do about it. For more on respite, and our Emergency Caregiver Respite project, give us a call.

And there is more to be glad about. The Federation has initiated the Parent Support Partner training program (PSP) for parents interested in becoming certified by the state and eligible for employment by mental health providers. The state certification allows for Medicaid billing for PSPs, and offering trained parents with "lived" experience to assist families is a service that has proved successful in many states. The first training of parents took place in Coeur d'Alene a few weeks ago, and the first 25 parents have graduated from the training and await state certification.

Congratulations to those 25 parents for undertaking a 40 hour training offered by our team led by Rebekah Casey and Carol Dixon. Training will take place in each of the three regional Behavioral Health hubs. See elsewhere in this NewsBlast for more information on upcoming training or visit the idahofederation.org website. The Federation has advocated for this program for several years, working with the Department of Health and Welfare, Medicaid and

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Assistant /
NewsBlast Editor

Optum Idaho to make the program a reality, and another long awaited but great success for advocates.

Speaking of success for advocates, I am very glad to learn that the "Maniac" license plate proposed for Idaho as a fund raiser for a school with a maniac for a mascot, has been held up by the Transportation Committee for amendment. Although the cartoon image of a guy wearing only a hospital gown and apparently freaking out may still appear on Idaho plates someday, stalling this bill is the result of the testimony given to the committee from anti-stigma advocates and advocates who sent e mail and made calls to legislators.

So yes Virginia, advocacy can lead to action, but it also can take a long time. And it feels like it has been a very long time since the advocacy effort to help thousands of Idahoans through the expansion of Medicaid started. That effort has evolved to "Closing the Gap" for 78,000 Idahoans and the "Healthy Idaho" plan. Years have passed, it is estimated that some one thousand Idahoans have died as a result of no action, and millions of dollars have not come to Idaho from the federal government to pay for providing health care to those thousands in need.

But there has been some action this legislative session, and legislators who have refused to even discuss Medicaid expansion are at least discussing it and holding listening sessions. Being discussed are the original expansion offer which appears to be totally rejected, the Healthy Idaho plan which has garnered massive support and a new proposal from the Governor that does not appear to be as helpful to people as other plans would be. Advocacy is clearly still needed and if there ever is a plan to offer health care to thousands of Idahoans, it will be the result of the effort of advocates.

Family Support Partners Training Program Has Launched!

As many of you may know we launched our Family

Family Support Specialists

Region I
Kelly Bryant

Region II
Tabitha Shears

Region III
Carol Dixon

Region IV
Carol Dixon

Region V
Jamie Price

Region VI
Davina Hull

Region VII
Kathy Gneiting



Visit Our [Website!](#)



Like Youth
MOVE Idaho
On [Facebook](#)



Like the Idaho
Federation on
[Facebook](#)



Support Partners Training program in January in Coeur d'Alene! We had a wonderful response from providers and individuals desiring to attend the training. We had over 30 applicants! Twenty-five potential family support partners attended the 40-hour training.

We were very excited to get things moving on this program so that we can help to bring a much needed service to families across the state. Moving forward we will be rolling out our training program across the state.

The Southwestern hub training (Regions 3,4,5) will be taking place in Boise March 14th-18th.

Applications are live now on our website. If you or anyone you know is a parent, guardian, or primary caregiver of a child with a mental health diagnosis who may be interested in the training please check the website to learn more!

Our Southeastern hub training (Regions 6 and 7) will be taking place in Pocatello May 16th-the 20th.

Applications for this training will be available on April 1st.

The cost of the Family Support Partner certification training is \$300.00 with some scholarships available through the Federation and other community partners.

For more information please checkout our website: www.idahofederation.org, contact the Federation office, or Rebekah Forster-Casey BSW Program Coordinator at strengtheningvillages@gmail.com 208.771.0628



***** PARENT WEBINAR SERIES**

Thursday, March 3rd at 10:00 AM MST

**"Family Support Partners: A New Service to
Begin in Idaho This Spring/Summer"**

**Presented by Rebekah Forster-Casey, BSW,
Program Coordinator**

*"One of the most powerful things for a
parent/guardian raising a child with emotional,
behavioral, or mental health disorders, is
connecting with another parent who understands
what it's like to be on that journey. This is the
foundation of the Family Support Partner
Program"*

**Family Support Partner services will soon be
available to families in Idaho. What is this new
service, who is a Family Support Partner, how will
this service benefit my family, and who is eligible
for the service? These questions and many more
will be answered by Rebekah Casey the Program
Coordinator for the Family Support Partners
Training Program.**

Join Us on Thursday, March 3rd at 10AM MT

Register Now!

for Family Support Partners

**Certificates of Attendance will be available for
these live sessions upon email request. These
webinars will be recorded and available later on
our website.**

**Advance registration is required and a
computer with internet access is needed. If you
do not have speakers on your computer, you will**

also need a telephone to access the sound portion.

Call 208-433-8845 in the Treasure Valley or 1-800-905-3436 from all other locations for additional information.

To be eligible for a Certificate of Attendance for any of our webinars, it is Federation policy that a participant must be present for a minimum of 75% of the presentation.

Interested in Being a Presenter for Our Parent Webinar Series?

This collaborative project has been a great success due to the willingness of professionals to share their time and expertise with parents throughout Idaho. The webinars are focused on topics related to children's mental health. Over the past 18 months we have discussed ADHD, attachment, IEP advocacy, adolescent addiction & mental illness, self-care for caretakers, Idaho resources, childhood anxiety plus many other topics. The webinars are easy to do, only take about one hour of your time and can be done from your home or office. We'd love to have more professionals from across the state participating.

Please Join Us!! Contact Carol Dixon for additional information cdixon@idahofederation.org.

PARENTS - Checkout Our Online Library of Archived Webinars!

Through a collaborative effort with community professionals the Federation hosts a monthly Parent Webinar Series. The presentations are on a variety of topics related to children's mental health. The webinars are archived so parents can browse through the topics and watch a presentation at a time of their choosing. The feedback has been very positive - Check Out Our Library at <http://idahofederation.org/archived-parent-webinar-presentations/>



Respite Care Providers Needed!!!

Idaho Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

Next Training:

March 9th at 6PM and

March 24th at 6PM

Pacific Time

Certificates of Attendance
will be given which count as
continuing education as
required for CFSP



Idaho Federation of
Families
for Children's Mental Health

704 North 7th St.
Boise, ID 83702
Phone: (800) 905-3436
Fax: (208) 433-8337

What is a Respite Provider:

- A Respite Care Provider watches a child while the parents/caregivers are out of the home for a short duration.
- As a Respite Care Provider you would provide care and support for the child you are watching.

Becoming a Respite Provider:

- Contact the Federation of Families at 1-800-905-3436 to begin the process.
- You would fill out a simple information application and confidentiality agreement.
- You would then complete a training webinar that takes about an hour and half.
- Complete two separate background checks - one is a fingerprint-based done by the Department of Health and Welfare and the second one is just a name-based check that is through Idaho State Police.
- Both of these background checks are paid for by Idaho Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health.

Next Trainings:

March 9th and 24th at 6PM Pacific Time

**For more information on respite please contact
Cindy Shotton at cshotton@idahofederation.org**

EMERGENCY CAREGIVER RESPITE FUNDS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE FEDERATION

A respite care program designed to assist 24/7 family caregivers with funding for respite care during an emergency is now available. Idaho Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (IFFCMH), in collaboration with the Idaho Commission on Aging and the Idaho Caregivers Alliance, initiated the ECR pilot project which offers respite care funding to caregivers providing 24/7 care to person(s) of any age.

Caregivers in an emergency situation may apply for emergency respite care funds by going

to www.idahofederation.org and clicking on "Respite Care" and then "Emergency Caregiver Respite" to find the on-line application form. Caregivers or agency personnel assisting a caregiver can also call the IFFCMH to initiate the application process at 800-905-3436.

To obtain ECR funds, caregivers must apply with the IFFCMH either online, via telephone, mail or fax. Caregivers are responsible for locating and contracting with their choice of respite care provider who can be a family member, trusted friend or an agency providing temporary residential care.

Once the application process has been completed and approved, and respite care successfully provided, payment is made directly to the individual respite care provider, or agency providing care at a residential facility. Completed evaluations and signed invoices are required before payment can be processed.

More detailed information regarding eligibility, emergency definition/criteria, and application guidelines can be found at

<http://idahofederation.org/respite-care-through-idaho-coalition-for-the-aging/>

Contact IFFCMH for information at 208-433-8845, 800-905-3436 or fax 208-433-8337.

**5th Annual Family Caregiver Conference
Supporting Loved Ones of All Ages, from 2 to 102**

**Boise State University
Saturday, February 20, 2016**

Registration is required by February 16, 2016

**Go to www.fiaboise.org to register
or call Friends in Action (208)333-1363.**

Read all the details [here!](#)

February 23,
2016

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Idaho Capitol
Building

4th Floor
Rotunda



Sponsored by
**The
Consortium
for Idahoans
with
Disabilities**

www.idahocid.com



www.facebook.com/CIDIdaho

5th Annual Disability Awareness Day



Join People with Disabilities, Families,
Providers, Legislators & Friends to
Create a Strong Idaho
Disability Awareness Community!

- Visit CID organization's display tables for information and resources about the achievements of Idahoans with disabilities, advocacy groups, projects and services throughout Idaho
- Learn about changes happening in the state that are relevant to you
- Photo Booth: Invite your legislator to take a photo with you
- Collect information about the ABLE Act—Achieving a Better Life Experience
- Learn about the new Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) rules

AND MORE!





Parenting is challenging.

Parenting children with disabilities is warrior parenting!

IPUL provides information, resources, and supports with a focus on special education, health care, and the arts to these families - families just like our own.

IPUL is a statewide, parent-led, nonprofit organization that understands first hand what families need.

5TH ANNUAL VIRTUAL SNOW DAY!

Won't you help us to help them?



On Monday, February 29, Idaho Parents Unlimited hopes you will join us "virtually" by taking a break to sip hot cocoa, and appreciate the thousands of families in Idaho who are raising exceptional children!

Contribute any time between now and February 29, 2016 to be entered into the drawing and to receive your cocoa packets.

Local folks can also come by IPUL on February 29th to drop off donations of clothing and small household items that will go to the Arc of Idaho!

Contribute at: <http://www.ipulidaho.org> or send a check to Idaho Parents Unlimited, 4619 Emerald, Ste. E., Boise, ID 83706

Questions? Contact us at: 208-342-5884 or parents@ipulidaho.org

With each \$10 donation we will send you a cocoa packet so you can participate without having to leave your house, AND you don't have to worry about driving in the white stuff! PLUS - for every \$10 you contribute, you will be placed into a drawing for a \$500 gift card to Southwest Airlines or Amazon.com.

WINNER'S CHOICE! \$10.00 - your name is entered once. \$20.00 - twice.

\$50.00 -five times - you get the point.!

LIVE LINK TO DONATE: www.ipulidaho.org

Community Health Screenings Coming Soon

Free Health Screenings will include a wide array of services at different locations in the Treasure valley from September through March.

**For more information click [here](#).
For the Spanish version, click [here](#).**



SAVE THE DATE



Assessing and Managing Suicide Risk
Training for Behavioral Health, Substance Abuse and Health Care Professionals
February 22, 2016: Coeur d'Alene 8:30am – 4:00pm
February 24, 2016: Boise 8:30am – 4:00pm
February 25, 2016: Pocatello 8:30am – 4:00pm

The Idaho Lives Project is pleased to sponsor an expanded training by Dr. David Rudd, PhD for licensed professionals. Dr. Rudd is President of the University of Memphis and an internationally and nationally recognized expert in clinical suicidology. He is an award-winning researcher and the author of several books including *Treating Suicide Behavior* and *The Assessment and Management of Suicidality*.

6 Continuing Education Credits available for all licensed professionals (CMEs and CEUs)
\$20 registration fee per attendee
Registration begins in January online at www.saridaho.org
Questions: email Jennifer Dickey at jdickey@idaholives.org

VIRTUOSITY AND VINO

An Event to Benefit the Brain Injury Alliance of Idaho

**Silent Art Auction, Raffle,
Wine Tasting
Appetizers and Music**

**Saturday March 5,
2016**

3:00 PM-6:00 PM

**At the New Telaya
Wine Co.**

**240 E. 32nd St. Garden
City, ID 83714**

**1 Block West of the Riverside
Hotel**

**ALL PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT STATEWIDE
PROJECTS FOR SURVIVORS OF BRAIN
INJURY & THEIR FAMILIES**

**Warm Springs Counseling Center Presents
"Girls Group for Ages 7-10: Being a Girl"**

Click [here](#) for details

Courageous Kids Climbing Newsletter

**[Read their newsletter and check their
schedule here...](#)**

From Transform Idaho

Another Chance for Idahoans in the Health Care

Gap

On Friday, Feb. 12, Idaho citizens have another potential opportunity to press Idaho legislators to take seriously the need for a comprehensive (and far less costly to Idaho taxpayers than the alternative) approach to provide health care for some 78,000 of our fellow Idahoans by taking advantage of expanded Medicare coverage. The Legislature agenda does not yet give details of the time and place for the joint hearing, but we urge you to check the official Website for updates, [here](#).

We are grateful to Democrat Minority Leader Sen. Michelle Stennett D-26, Ketchum), and her colleagues, Assistant Minority Leader Sen. Cherie Buckner-Webb (D-19, Boise) and Minority Caucus Chairman Sen. Grant Burgoyne (D-16, Boise), for pursuing concrete action on Medicaid expansion. Their statement, issued following the Feb. 2 hearing, said this: "It is an abdication of legislative responsibility to avoid making tough decisions, defer casting votes and to fail to answer to constituents. Swift, considerate, courageous leadership on the part of legislators should be expected and required. What is the function and purpose of being a legislator if not to vote, and be accountable to the needs of the electorate? We fear that the politics of the Majority party are getting in the way of good public policy."

In their joint "listening session," both the House and Senate Health and Welfare Committees will invite the public to testify on any matter related to the Committees' work. This includes closing the coverage gap as envisioned in SB 1205, as well as comments on Gov. Butch Otter's alternative, but less inclusive and more costly "Primary Care Access Program. (PCAP)" Although there has as yet been no public hearing on the PCAP proposal, lawmakers got a [preview summary](#) of it from the Department of Health and Welfare.

Read more [here](#).

More from Transform Idaho...

Work Should Lift Workers Out of Poverty, Not Keep Them There

Idahoans deserve a proper legislative hearing in this session on whether raising the Gem State's minimum wage from the \$7.25 an hour that has stood since 2009. We urge you to contact your legislators to express your opinion on whether doing so will benefit Idaho workers and improve the state's economy. Because of two years of legislative intransigence, about 37 percent of Idahoans earning minimum wage are teetering just above the official poverty level, yet cannot meet their monthly bills.

Wage-raise legislation, this year proposed by Sen. Maryanne Jordan (D-17, Boise) and Rep. Mat Erpelding (D-19A, Boise) is now in the hands of the House Ways and Means Committee, led by Rep. Christy Perry (R-11B, Nampa), who might be persuaded to allow the bill to be presented and discussed.

We urge you to contact Rep. Perry and members of her committee to ask that they schedule a hearing on the wage proposal and allow a public hearing. This would be the last chance for the issue to be brought before the Legislature in this session.

Rep. Christy Perry cperry@house.idaho.gov

Rep. Mike Moyle mmoyle@house.idaho.gov

Rep. Brent Crane bcrane@house.idaho.gov

Rep. John Vander Woude

jvanderwoude@house.idaho.gov

Also contact and encourage:

Rep. John Rusche (Please thank Rep. Rusche for his leadership and support) jrusche@house.idaho.gov

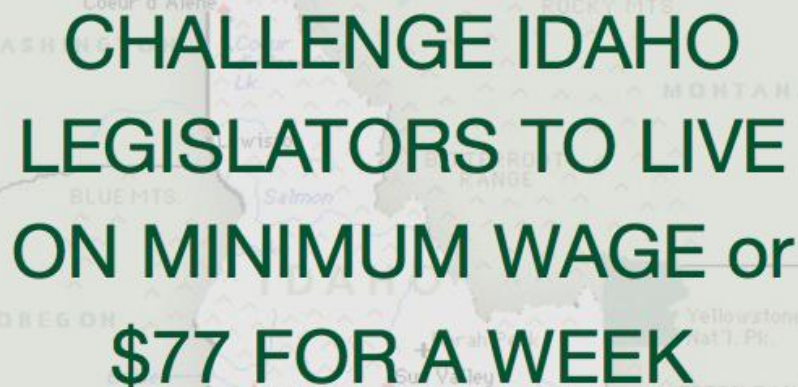
Rep. Mat Erpelding (Please thank Rep. Erpelding for his leadership - Bill's sponsor)

merpelding@house.idaho.gov

Rep. Donna Pence (Please thank Rep. Pence for her support - Bill's sponsor) dpence@house.idaho.gov

Read more [here](#):

LIVE THE WAGE

A map of Idaho is shown in the background, with various geographical features and cities labeled. Overlaid on the map is the text 'CHALLENGE IDAHO LEGISLATORS TO LIVE ON MINIMUM WAGE or \$77 FOR A WEEK'.

**CHALLENGE IDAHO
LEGISLATORS TO LIVE
ON MINIMUM WAGE or
\$77 FOR A WEEK**

40 hours per week at \$7.25 \$290 per week less \$176.48
for housing and \$35.06 for taxes = \$77 remaining