



COMMUNITY SERVICES, HOUSING, AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
SPOKANE COUNTY REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
Kathleen Torella, Director

On behalf of Kathleen Torella:

For over twenty-nine years, Spokane County has been responsible for administering funding and services for adults and children who suffer from severe and persistent mental illness. Through Spokane County's Regional Support Network (RSN), Medicaid and low-income populations from the counties of Spokane, Pend Oreille, Okanogan, Ferry, Adams, Lincoln, Stevens, and Grant were evaluated, stabilized, and treated.

On April 1, 2016, the RSN transitioned to a Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) which integrated mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services for all the above-listed counties, except Grant, under a managed health care model. This transition was part of a statewide initiative to enhance care coordination, improve health outcomes, and reduce unnecessary costs. The Spokane County Regional Behavioral Health Organization (SCRBHO) provided care, resources, and services for those seeking to recover from mental illness and substance use disorder so they could live safer, healthier, and more independent lives. From July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, more than one million services were provided to approximately 55,000 people in the SCRBHO region.

In accordance with Senate Bill (SB) 6312, which calls for the integration of physical and behavioral health services in the public sector, our region's Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) voted to be a mid-adopter region transitioning to integrated managed care (IMC) by January 1, 2019. Additionally, the Spokane BoCC voted for Spokane County to operate the region's IMC Behavioral Health – Administrative Service Organization with responsibilities for the behavioral health crisis system of care, and behavioral health services for non-Medicaid individuals at or below the 220% Federal Poverty level, within available resources. Our priorities in 2018 and 2019 will continue to be focused on implementing IMC and serving the most vulnerable members of our six-county region of care, which includes the counties of Spokane, Pend Oreille, Ferry, Adams, Lincoln, and Stevens.

Spokane County would like to thank our dedicated staff, regional contracted service providers, and all stakeholders from across the state who have joined us in these multi-year efforts to improve the health and lives of the citizens we serve in our region of care.

Best regards,

Kathleen Torella, Director
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