



Dear Kelly Rhoads,

Empower Idaho, in partnership with the Region 1 Behavioral Health Board, is pleased to inform you that you have been chosen to receive the 2024 Mental Health Advocate Award in celebration of Idaho Mental Health Month. Each of Idaho's 7 Behavioral Health Boards selected an individual in their respective communities who exemplifies community advocacy, resiliency, and passion for mental health. Your work embodies these qualities and deserves recognition and celebration.

A few words from the Region 1 Behavioral Health Board about Kelly: Kelly received her master's degree from Boise State University in 2018. She has worked with individuals from various walks of life from refugees to young adults to the seriously and persistently mentally ill. Kelly has been employed with the Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Behavioral Health for the last 5 years in various roles. Starting as an intern, she later transitioned to an ACT clinician to work with Mental Health Court, has been appointed as a Designated Examiner, and was the Outpatient Commitment Coordinator for Region 1. Kelly completed her certification as a CIT Coordinator and co-facilitates the Department's CIT-Collaborative meetings. In addition to her daily duties, Kelly provides mental health, de-escalation, and safety assessment trainings to local Law Enforcement and various other community partners. Most recently, Kelly has worked to develop mobile response services throughout Idaho. In 2023, she accepted a position as the Program Manager for the Statewide Crisis Team for the Center of Excellence to promote statewide training and fidelity to best practice for mobile response programs. Kelly's philosophy: none of us are immune to crisis, and we are all best served in our homes and in our communities. This is the foundation for her desire to grow statewide crisis services, reducing incarceration and hospitalization while increasing access to care throughout our state. Kelly has been honored to work throughout the region developing an extensive network of crisis collaborators focused on client centered, least restrictive care that eliminates barriers to treatment. Here is what her peers say about her amazing work: she is committed to educating community members and law enforcement. Kelly has done a phenomenal job of responding to severe mental illness within our community in an environment of steadily decreasing resources and staffing at Health and welfare. She is passionate and compassionate. She is always an advocate for those with mental health issues and has shown time and time again to always have her client's best interests at heart. Kelly did a great job with the crisis mobile unit; she continues to work on improving services for community members through Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

Congratulations on receiving this meaningful recognition. The Empower Idaho team is grateful for the opportunity to honor you in this way. We are in the process of creating a physical award to commemorate what you mean to the Idaho Mental Health Community, which will be mailed to you. In the meantime, please accept this certificate in recognition of all of your hard work and commitment to helping others!

Sincerely,

Alejandra Del Toro
Empower Idaho
Program Manager

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