



REGION II
Behavioral Health Board

Dear Sharlene Johnson,

Empower Idaho, in partnership with the Region 2 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 2 Behavioral Health Board about Sharlene: Sharlene Johnson has proven to be a very effective leader for prevention and service providing for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder in the Kamiah, Idaho area and more. She developed the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) where youth are investing in prevention efforts in their communities. The youth become leaders and role models who take pride in providing community service, leading prevention efforts, being trained in mental health and other helpful services. These skills and experiences create strong character for youth. In 2023, Sharlene was able to gain a large grant and her group established the Upriver Youth Leadership Council (UYLC) Recovery Center and they hired a Recover Center Manager, Amber Hoodman. The UYLC, under Sharlene's leadership established The Kamiah Teen Center, K-6 After School Program, Botvin Life Skills implementation, Strengthening Families Program, Body and Mind Tele-Mental Health Services, Safe Home Initiative, Community Events with Safe and Sober Kid Zones, School Resource Officer, Recovery Coaching Services, Narcan Distribution and so much more. Sharlene also chairs the Reg. 2 BHB Prevention Subcommittee that has now expanded to Prevention/Recovery Subcommittee which identifies and helps establish services throughout the region. Every community needs a person like Sharlene to help youth and adults to be safe, secure, confident, caring, and productive in their lives through helpful programs.

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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