

WHAT IS THE IDAHO PEDIATRIC PSYCHIATRY ACCESS LINE (ID-PPAL)?

University of Idaho's School of Health and Medical Professions (SHAMP) in collaboration with Idaho's Division of Behavioral Health proposes to develop an Idaho Pediatric Psychiatry Access Line (ID-PPAL). ID-PPAL is a statewide initiative to close critical gaps in pediatric mental health. It will connect primary care providers with child and adolescent psychiatrists for consultation on diagnosis, treatment planning, and medication management. We believe that by equipping local providers with timely psychiatric experience and ongoing education, ID-PPAL will strengthen Idaho's capacity to deliver effective, community-based behavioral health care and reduces the need for unnecessary referrals or hospital visits.

ABOUT THE ID-PPAL PROGRAM: THREE PILLARS

The ID-PPAL program includes three core pillars that together expand access, enhance provider competency, and integrate mental health expertise into primary care across Idaho.



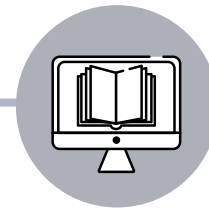
CONSULTATION LINE

A dedicated line to connect primary care providers with child and adolescent psychiatrists for consultations on diagnosis, treatment, and medication management.



RESOURCE NETWORK

A centralized hub of clinical tools and local, state, and national resources to help providers deliver evidence-based care in their communities.



CONTINUING EDUCATION

Continuing education through Project ECHO Idaho to expand provider expertise and support high-quality pediatric behavioral health care statewide.

IDAHO NEEDS THE ID-PPAL PROGRAM

Access to pediatric behavioral health care is one of the greatest challenges facing Idaho's rural and underserved communities. Child and adolescent psychiatrists are extremely scarce; many Idaho counties have none. Families often wait 6-12 months for specialty care, with some traveling hundreds of miles for care. Delays in care worsen outcomes, increase costs, and contribute to unnecessary emergency department visits or hospitalizations. Idaho remains the only state to not implement a Pediatric Psychiatry Access Line (PPAL) to support primary care providers to deliver care in their own communities.