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**PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release**

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**Behavioral Health Quick Care to Become a Reality in South Central Idaho**

TWIN FALLS-The South Central Behavioral Health Board (SCBHB), in partnership with South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) is pleased to announce the realization of a Behavioral Health Quick Care that will be located in Twin Falls and serve the eight counties (Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls) of south central Idaho.

“We have worked tirelessly to establish a sustainable, outcome-driven facility that provides the appropriate level of care for individuals experiencing a behavioral crisis,” says Rene LeBlanc, SCPHD District Health Director. “Individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis are often incarcerated, hospitalized, or treated in hospital emergency departments because appropriate care has not been available. We will now be equipped to assist these individuals while unburdening local law enforcement and hospitals.”

The 2016 Idaho Legislature appropriated general funds for a Behavioral Health Quick Care; the funds were part of the Division of Behavioral Health, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare budget request.

“The SCBHB committee is truly committed to operating this facility in a manner that meets our regional needs and utilizes funds responsibly,” says Scott Rasmussen, Region V Behavioral Health Program Manager. “This facility will *not* be utilized as a shelter, hang-out, or recovery center. No individuals will be turned away based on race, color, religion, or inability to pay. Individuals with insurance/Medicaid will be billed for services. Our goal is to reduce the number of crises among individuals with behavioral health issues.”

The next step is the Request for Interest (RFI) for the development and operation of the center. Some of the responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Acquire/secure a facility
- Provide limited behavioral health services
- Submit a long-term sustainability plan by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year

“We are looking for interested behavioral health providers or non-profit agencies that are creative, resourceful, and genuine in their intent to improve the behavioral health and wellness of our community,” said LeBlanc.

More information on the SCBHB committee, SCPHD, and copies of the RFI can be found at [www.phd5.idaho.gov](http://www.phd5.idaho.gov) or [www.scbhbidaho.org](http://www.scbhbidaho.org).

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