



ECHC

Elmore County Health Coalition

Elmore County Health Coalition Meeting

Thursday, April 16th, 2026

2:00 – 3:30pm

In-person Meeting Location:

Doyel Ray Hope Center

1140 Airbase Road (W 6th S)

Mountain Home, ID 83647

MISSION

To bring together and work with community partners to empower our communities through strategic initiatives that advance equity and health for present and future generations

Welcome and Introductions.

[View all meeting attendees and find their contact information here!](#)

Community Presenter: Heather Allan (Communities for Youth)

See 0:00-49:15 in recording for the presentation and discussion.

[Here is the recording.](#)

Heather Allan presented an overview of the Communities for Youth (C4Y) initiative. She explained that C4Y is an Idaho-based initiative currently involving over 60 communities or schools, aiming to build the best possible environments for youth by focusing on upstream prevention and community capacity building. Currently, the initiative is funded through opioid settlement funds and operates in partnership with schools, parent groups, hospitals, law enforcement, and business leaders.

C4Y uses community-specific data to identify risk and protective factors affecting youth, ensuring solutions are tailored to each community and not simply imported from other regions. The process involves building a community coalition, centering youth experience through annual surveys, setting goals, initiatives and activities based on data, and maintaining ongoing engagement with schools and communities.

Heather shared Idaho youth mental health statistics:

- Idaho ranked 50th nationally for youth mental health in 2022, with 52.5% of youth needing mental health services going untreated and suicide rates 1.8 times the national average.
- Teen depression rates in Idaho ranged from 24% to 67% in 2025, with Boise showing a decrease in moderate to severe depression from 38% in 2022 to 16% in 2025.

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- Key Risk Factors Identified: Surveys identified social isolation, stress, lack of sleep, lack of family support, dating violence/coercion, and discrimination as key factors contributing to depression and ideation among Boise youth.

Heather discussed the importance of annual youth surveys for C4Y initiatives their clinical design, data privacy, and how survey data informs community actions. Details on surveys include:

- Surveys are conducted annually in schools, use clinically validated scales like PHQ-9, school administrators can pick and choose which modules to use (questions are available for review on the Idaho Department of Education website).
- Survey responses are anonymous, with data only reported if at least 50% of the population participates, ensuring student privacy and integrity.
- Each school owns its data, which is not shared with other schools unless permitted; aggregated data is used to inform local actions and strategies for youth well-being.
- Ashlie noted that Mountain Home School District cannot legally survey students directly, relying instead on parent and community member surveys, prompting discussion about parental consent as a possible workaround.

Heather described the opportunity to apply for a \$750,000/year OJJDP (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention) grant to support Communities for Youth as a regional initiative in Elmore County, outlining requirements for school and community buy-in. Other details of the grant application include:

- The grant would provide \$750,000 per year for 36 months, with no cost to Elmore County, but requires implementation of Communities for Youth surveys as a core component.
- Heather emphasized the need for buy-in from Elmore County, including school district approval for surveys and letters of support from city councils, county commissioners, and other entities to strengthen the grant application.
- The grant application deadline is May 4th, 2026, with a secondary deadline of May 11th, and an anticipated period of performance of 36 months.
- Mindy proposed moving coalition voting online for a letter of support from ECHC, encouraged members to contact school district leaders for feedback, and discussed the need for quick turnaround due to grant deadlines.
 - **Mindy will be reaching out ASAP requesting letters of support for this application from applicable organizations. Any help or support in getting the request into the right hands is greatly appreciated!**

Glenns Ferry Town Hall- Christy Acord

Christy Accord discussed producing a physical newsletter for rural Elmore County, aiming to share health coalition resources and contact information with approximately 2,000 recipients, addressing communication challenges in rural areas. Coalition members are encouraged to email Christy their logos, descriptions, and contact information for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter, with a target release by the end of May.

ECHC Committee Updates:

Nutrition- Mindy Curran

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- At the March meeting, Maritza Sanchez with Desert Sage shared food and nutrition data that Desert Sage collects, which was primarily focused on number of referrals for food insecurity needs.
 - The committee is working to start hosting Cooking Matters classes at the senior centers soon.
 - The Grand Opening event for the Falcon's Landing Produce Pantry collaboration is happening on April 30th @ 11 am. Please reach out to Mindy if you'd like to host a table at the event. This is also the same day as the LEAP Housing ribbon cutting event at Falcon's Landing which is happening from 12pm-2pm. The ribbon cutting event is open to the public.

Nicotine/SUD- Heather Terrian

- During March meeting, conversations occurred about mini grant application collaboration between Youth Rising and Doyel Ray Hope Center on creating a shared substance use prevention activity that coalition members can take to boothing events. Application in-progress, almost complete.
- Also working on and creating window stickers and packets to distribute to local vape shops to educate about compliance. Conversations to continue.

Mental Health- Mindy Curran

- The committee is working on updating ECHC landing page resources.
- Also working on updating the mental health and behavioral health services and support groups list. Please feel free to review and comment with any information that you know of that could be changed or added [here](#).
- We hosted a Find Help Idaho Training at the CDH office in Mountain Home on March 26th. Had 9 attendees, many of which had not heard of Find Help Idaho. Hoping to increase knowledge and utilization of this wonderful tool!
- Collaborative mini grant application in the works between Mountain Home School District art students and St. Lukes to expand and print mindfulness journals that can be distributed to Mountain Home youth.

Roundtable Updates- Open to All

Upcoming Health Screenings:

- 4/23/2026--St. Luke's FREE Health Screening @ Mountain Home Public Library. Reynaldo Celestino will conduct free health screenings at the Mountain Home Library 10am-2pm. Coalition members able to set up information tables in the conference room from 9 to 4. See English and Spanish flyers attached in email. Please reach out to Vicky to host a booth: jekichv@slhs.org.
- 4/25/2026--Desert Sage Health Centers will host a health fair on April 25th, offering blood pressure checks and other medical services from 8am to 12pm. See attached flyer in email and share. Please reach out to Cassi with questions or interest in hosting a booth: cassandra.garza@desertsage.org.
- 5/13/2026—El-Ada Community Resource Fair 11am-2pm. 2420 American Legion Blvd #2. See attached flyer in email. Reach out to Meg to host a booth: meghanh@eladacap.org.

Next meeting: June 18th, 2026

Find the Elmore County Health Coalition landing page and past minutes and presentations here:
<https://cdh.idaho.gov/about/partnerships/elmore-county-health-coalition/>