



South Peninsula
Behavioral Health Services,
Inc

ANNUAL REPORT 2024 / 2025

Letter from Jay Bechtol, CEO

This past year our Board of Directors sat down and took a stab at streamlining and updating our Mission Statement. No easy task given the variety of input we received from staff, clients, and our community partners. How to render all those great ideas, all those important values, and that hard work into one sentence.

When the dust cleared, we arrived at this:
Empowering people to transform their lives by providing compassionate, accessible care that supports behavioral health/wellness and strengthens our community.

There are a couple of key points in there I think deserve a little bit of a closer look:

First, transforming lives. The new mission statement begins, ***“Empowering people to transform...”*** I think that’s a key component to all the work we do. Our goal is to come alongside an individual or a family, wherever they may be, and identify where they want to go. It is not our job to tell people where to go. My values may not be your values. The State’s goals may not be your family’s goals. The Federal definition of wellness may not be your definition of wellness. We want to know where you want to go, then help you do everything possible to get there.

Because no one takes that journey alone, nor should they have to

Which leads to the second point, the new mission statement closes with, ***“...strengthens our community.”*** If we think of the community as an individual, how can SPBHS come alongside and support the community’s effort to be better. What are the gaps that need filling, what are the hallmarks of communal wellness that we can address, and what are others doing which would benefit from us lending support?

Because the healthier our community is, the healthier we are as individuals. The staff here at SPBHS are committed to supporting our clients and our community to the best of our abilities. This past year I’ve watched it happen time and time again and I know it will continue to happen in the future.

So a huge shout out to our staff for the work they do, our community for the support you give us, and most importantly, to the clients who come in seeking help and doing all the hard work to transform their lives.

In wellness,

Jay



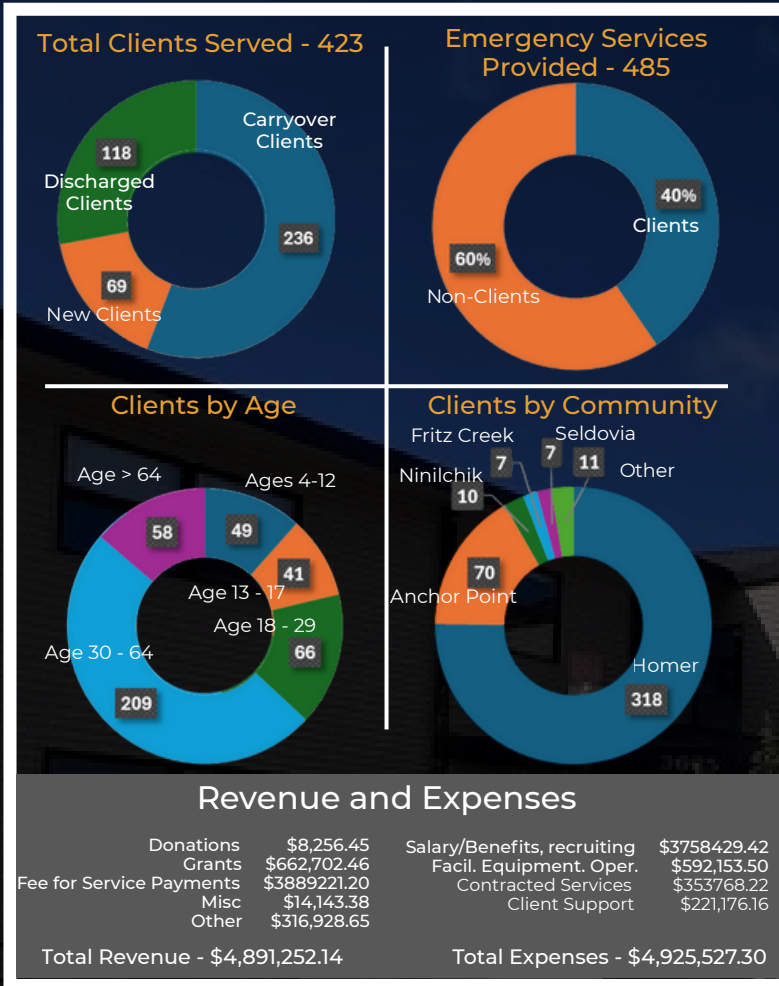
A Word from Anthony

"When I was at my lowest point and close to losing everything, SPBHS gave me the support and stability I needed."



"They made sure I had a roof over my head and the help I needed until I was stable again. Thanks to their support, I'm now in college, building my future. I will always be grateful for the way they helped me when I needed it most."

Anthony is currently enrolled at Moreno Valley College in California studying journalism, "I want to be the voice of people who were never heard."



Peer Support: Healing Through Connection

This year, The Center launched its Peer Support Program with strong community momentum. In partnership with Muskeg Wellness, trainers Eliza Eller and Kathleen Euster led a 38-hour course—the first required step toward official Peer Support Certification in Alaska.

Participants included clients and staff from The Center, our partners at K-Bay Recovery Connection, and other community members committed to walking alongside others on the path to healing. Eleven individuals graduated from the program, each carrying with them lived experience, empathy, and a powerful message: you're not alone.

Peer Support isn't therapy—it's solidarity. It's someone who's been there, now offering a steady hand and a listening heart. And thanks to the spirit of collaboration in our community, this network of hope continues to grow.

Fueling the Future: Building the Teen Community Resource Center



When a community rallies around a cause, something remarkable happens. This year, The Center witnessed that kind of momentum—steady, passionate, and full of hope—as plans for a Teen Community Resource Center began to take root.

Housed in one of our satellite buildings known as The Annex, the Teen Community Resource Center will be more than a renovation—it will be a revolution in how young people in our region connect, grow, and heal. The vision? A welcoming, accessible space for teens to explore mental wellness resources, engage in group programming, receive support, and just be. It will be a hub for prevention, peer connection, and purposeful care.

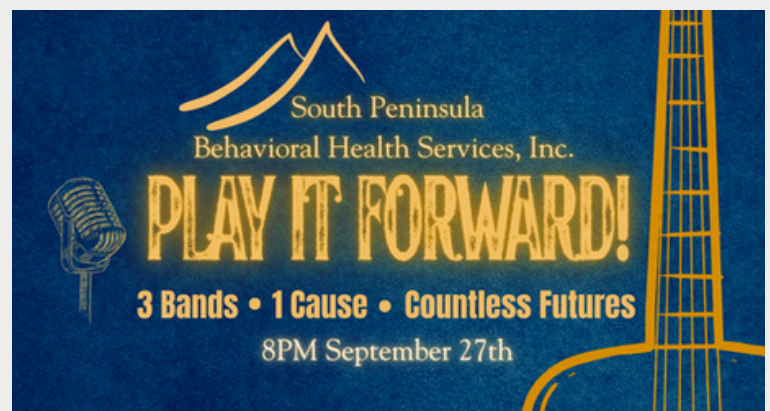
And the community showed up.

From our inaugural Town Lap Walk-A-Thon in May to September's lively (and sold-out) Play It Forward concert fundraiser, this year has been full of creative momentum. Families walked in memory and in hope, local businesses stepped up with sponsorships, and musicians used their talents to amplify our mission.



These events were more than fundraisers—they were storytelling moments, where teens, parents, staff, and supporters helped articulate what this space will mean: a place where our young people feel safe, seen, and supported.

While the capital campaign is still unfolding, the message is already loud and clear: this community believes in its youth. We believe in giving them not just a place to go—but a reason to come.



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