

We are GO for Summer



It may not be the sunniest of summers, but we're buzzing with summer activities, and kicking this season off right! The children's department has had a busy couple of weeks starting with the Summer Kick-Off BBQ at the

Clubhouse. Clients attending summer groups were able to come and meet the staff they would be working with, get a tour of the Clubhouse, finish their enrollment in groups, and have some free food. It was a fun event and we were blessed with one of the few moments of sunshine Homer was able to see so far.

On Saturday, May 18th, members of our Pride staff teamed up with the Homer Police Department, the Homer Volunteer Fire Department, and Southern Kenai Peninsula Residents to raise money for the Special Olympics in the annual Law Enforcement Torch



Run. Participants raised money via pledges, and ran from the base



of the Spit to the Nick Dudiak Fishing Lagoon. Runners were awarded prizes and runners and attendees had an opportunity to pose for pictures with emergency responders and emergency response vehicles. We are thankful for the warm support of our community, and our first responders.



SPBHS
EST. 1979

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

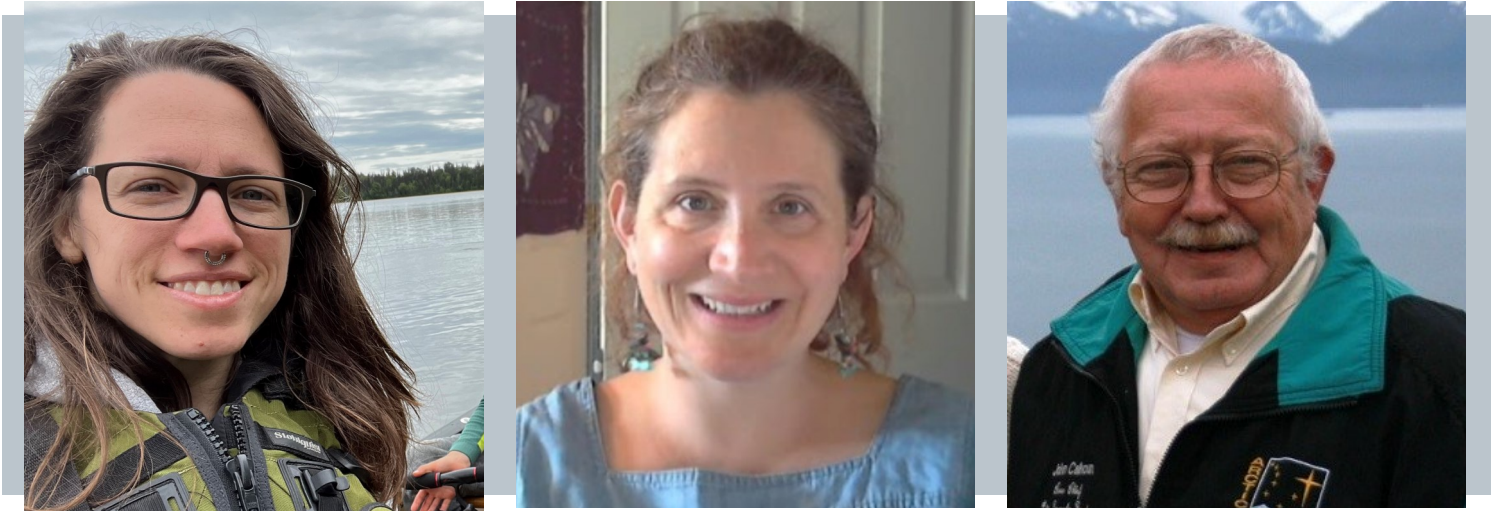
Brian Partridge, President
Tim Scheffel, Secretary
Morris Richardson, Member
Ahnlie Litecky, Member
Jocelyn Brown, Member
John Calhoun, Member

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 20th- Board Meeting
August -45th Anniversary Celebration *more details to come

Welcome to the Board!

We are excited to announce the addition of three new board members!



From left to right—Jocelyn Brown, Ahnie Litecky, John Calhoun

SPBHS is pleased to announce the additions of Jocelyn Brown, Ahnie Litecky, and John Calhoun to our Board of Directors.

Jocelyn currently works for the State of Alaska Department of Family and Community Services, in the Office of Children's Services. She brings an understanding of systems and resources that SPBHS clients interface with on a regular basis.

Ahnie has extensive board experience, and a history of working with and volunteering with nonprofit organizations, but also has a background in Mental Health Services, and DD Services and has held several positions within different organizations doing work similar to services provided by SPBHS.

John Calhoun also brings experience from different board positions, and also a historical knowledge of Homer and the operations of our community stakeholders, as John has previously served as the Mayor of Homer.

All of our new members share enthusiasm for the services SPBHS provides, and are passionate about their community, and seeing individuals thrive.

35 Years at SPBHS!

1989- The Berlin wall came down, the Galileo Spacecraft was launched by NASA, the EXXON Valdez spill happened, Nintendo introduced the Gameboy, “Wind Beneath My Wings” by Bette Midler was the top song, Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, Batman, and Ghostbusters II were the top movies. And young Lara Fleenor, who like so many young Alaskans in Homer at the time, worked at Alaska Wildberry Products, and was now hired as the receptionist at Community Mental Health Center.



19 years old and the receptionist and medical records clerk. She was only in that position for about 8 months before being promoted to Secretary, which is a position she held until 1996. In Lara’s tenure at SPBHS she has witnessed the agency change their operating name, she has served under 5 CEOs. She was on the team when the agency secured funding to expand the building and build a children’s wing in the early 90s. And again in the late 90s early 2000s when they added the admin hall where the CEO, COO, board room, and computer lab is now. She was instrumental on the team that transitioned the agency from paper records, to Carelogic, and in 2020, while having to work remotely to care for family, Lara and Niff were able to become licensed System Admins for Carelogic.

Lara says that what has made it easy to continue working at the same agency for 35 years is the support she has had from supervisors and team leaders that have stood behind her and supported her when life would happen, and she needed to take time to support her family. She also is encouraged and fueled by the positive impact SPBHS has had in the lives of the people we serve. She remembers, “being at the front desk and having a little kiddo come in for the first time with their head down, no eye contact and having their parent check in for them at the front desk. The fear and sadness was so evident in their body language and lack of social interaction. After a few sessions of therapy that same child would walk in and come right up to the window with a smile telling me who they were here to see and how their day was going. I have seen firsthand the difference that therapy makes in people’s lives and it makes you feel thankful to be even a tiny part of that.”



When Lara isn’t supporting the agency in her position as Billing Operations Specialist, she and her husband are spending time at their Caribou Hills Cabin, where they hope to eventually be spending more and more time in the future. Congratulations, and thanks for 35 years, Lara!

Staff and Client/Recipient Enrichment



Shane Kilcher, Brian Ormond, and Ruhiyyih Baker at this year's Peer Power Alaska Summit in Anchorage. The goal of the summit is to deliver support and education opportunities for individuals experiencing disabilities, and support staff. It is

an excellent chance for staff and recipients to network with other resources within the state, hear testimonies of other individuals in like situations, and learn from leaders taking charge on disability rights advocacy.

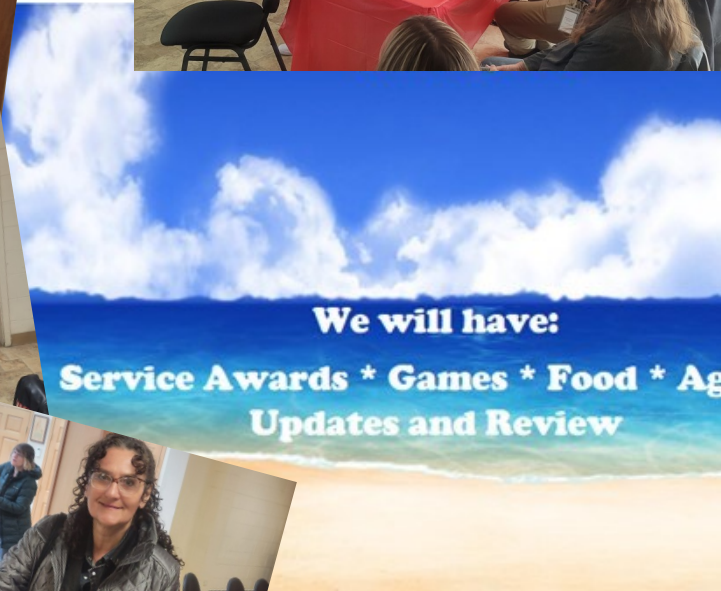
Rudy recently attended a two-day Iceland Prevention Model (IPM) conference in Anchorage put on by the State of Alaska and presented by Alfgeir Kristjansson who was one of the original contributors to the IPM. This was a follow up to the Planet Youth conference that Rudy attended in Iceland in March of this year. Also in attendance at this recent conference were other cornerstones of the youth-oriented community such as Hannah Gustafson of the Resilience Coalition, Ginny Espenshade of Homer Youth Court, Winter Marshall-Allen of Homer High School, Ashe Dias a youth representative from Homer Youth Court, Eric Pederson from the KPBSD School District, and Kyle Darbonne of Fireweed Academy. The group was able to workshop the steps of the IPM and create an outline for our community to develop and implement the model. The Icelandic Prevention Model uses youth enrichment as a means to reduce the impact of risk factors for teens.





SPBHS

All Staff Breakfast and Meeting



SPBHS

Our Mission

The Center Partners with individuals, families, and communities to enhance the health, productivity, and social engagement by offering compassionate and evidenced-based services in the areas of developmental disabilities, mental health, substance abuse, and co-occurring disorders.

Our Vision

A dynamic organization committed to outstanding care with and for communities, valuing integrity, and respect for all.

We Believe

- In the Individual's right to self-determination
- In the individual's right to be treated with dignity, kindness, and respect.
- In innovative response to obstacles.
- That cooperation is founded on respect, honesty, and forgiveness, as well as the opportunity to change.
- In forging partnerships that create synergy within the community.
- That diverse opinions enrich outcomes.
- In collaboration, commitment, teamwork, and problem solving
- That integrity and personal responsibility are core to ethical behavior.

SERVICES

The Center— Individual, group, couples, and family therapy. For children, young adults, and adults. SPBHS takes all insurance and offers a sliding scale for anyone without. Additionally, medication support, YHDP, ASAP services, case management, and our administrative offices are all housed at The Center.

Journeys— Adult mental health rehab services. Individual and group day support across multiple setting including in home, in the community, and at our Parkside Building. Case management, IPS, and other services are also available through Journeys.

Child and Family Services— Youth (ages 4-21) mental health rehab services are available for children and families across multiple settings including in home, in the community, in schools, and in our Center offices.

Pride— Child and adult Intellectual and Development Disability Services. For any individual with a State Waiver, we offer Day Hab, Supported Living, and Family Hab services across multiple settings in home, in the community and at our Parkside Building.

SPBHS
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(yes, we still fax things)



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CARF International accreditation demonstrates a program's quality, transparency, and commitment to the satisfaction of the persons served. CARF International is an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services.

