



The Center Stage

SOUTH PENINSULA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
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Merry and Bright

Office celebrations, teams advocating for our youth. Recognizing overcomers, and so much tinsel. The halls were decked, there were treats to be had. The teams kept it festive while doing the hard work necessary to continue to meet the mental health needs of a community.

SPBHS
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Board of Directors

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





2024 STAFF HOLIDAY PARTY

December Anniversaries

2023 - Elisha Dickerson

2021 - Abby Ferrer

2019 - Susan Burpee
Paul Eneboe
Kitty Stern

As you know, on December 13th, Homer was visited by a quite serious storm. Many staff members and clients were either snowed in, or fallen trees made their path to work impassable. Power outages then plagued much of the city. However, we had a hearty crew that still made it to the office, and in spite of poor weather, and having to work by lamplight, were able to continue delivering services with only minimal appointments canceled until power was restored. Which happened just in time to allow our annual get together to happen. And we were able to honor staff and show our appreciation for one another.



International Volunteer Day

December 5th was International Volunteer Day, and we would like to take this time to thank the volunteers who sacrifice a few hours a month to help guide this agency and that is our Board of Directors. On the third Thursday of each month they sacrifice their evenings to meet with the CEO, COO/CFO, and Development Director for updates on the agency, and to make decisions regarding Finance, Governance, and Facilities. They are individuals who believe in the work of SPBHS, who serve as our ambassadors in the community, sharing about the work we do with their network. They participated in our September Fundraiser, and they keep their eyes open to help recruit other board members, and look for opportunities to help raise awareness about mental health in Homer, and advocate for us. Thank you Brian Partridge, Tim Shefell, Morris Richardson, Jocelyn Brown, Ahna Litecky, and John Calhoun. You are a vital asset to our organization, and we appreciate your time, perspectives, and leadership.





Youth Advocacy - The Icelandic Prevention Model, Evaluating Need, and Searching for Solutions.

There is a quiet need on the Southern Kenai Peninsula. A malady that for most, has gone largely undetected. Many people don't realize it's a problem until one of the implicated individuals becomes a headline of some sorts. Teen homelessness or youth in transition is often how the problem is labeled, but that is a symptom of a greater problem, which is youth access to resources. Teens who find themselves in various levels of need, while surviving in a state of premature independence.

Due to any number of circumstances, we have a teen/young adult population on the Southern Kenai Peninsula who fall through the cracks. Many end up as part of the juvenile justice system, or become homeless. Chronic couch surfers who need a support network to help them find stability through school, work, and shelter.



Abby Ferrer and Rudy Multz have been championing that exact cause. This month they have been coordinating with the Library Advisory Board, sending letters to the City Council Advisory Boards, presenting to the Youth Advisory Committee and Rudy applied for a grant for Teen Mental Health First Aid. Additionally, Development Director, Ashley Moore, and Clinician Drue Smith, have met with Scott Bartlett of Homer Council on the Arts regarding a community wide, teen art project, regarding arts and wellness, in hopes of spreading awareness on this issue.

We hope to share more exciting updates soon as we find more community partners, and gain momentum in being a part of the solution.



Staff Appreciation

While in some regards, 2024 hasn't been as traumatic as say years where a major pandemic changes how we socialize and interact with others and services. For those in the billing world, it had some major upheavals that took experience, and incredible tenacity to overcome.

South Peninsula Behavioral Health Services, Inc. was able to keep the wheels on the wagon because of Lara Fleenor, and Jennifer "Nif" Henley. This year a cyber-attack on Change Healthcare resulted in our billing system going offline and for some months, these amazing team members went back to paper billing, which was quite the feat after using an online billing system for more than 7 years.

At the state level there were changes with the billing process and again, SPBHS was the benefactor of their extreme diligence, as they pursued each and every dollar owed to us for services rendered, that the greater overall system was leaving out.

Our COO/CFO Carla Meitler spoke with great pride as she recounted the challenges Lara and Nif had to endure this year, and how fabulously they overcame. Likewise, the rest of our staff so appreciates the great work they do, and the excellence that they not only strive for, but achieve.



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

3048 Ben Walters Lane
Homer, AK, 99603

www.SPBHS.org

907 235 7701 (tel)
907 235 2290 (fax)
(yes, we still fax things)



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