



The Center Stage

SOUTH PENINSULA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
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photo credit: Stephanie Young

Great Community Collabs!

2025 has turned into a season of great collaborations with community stakeholders, and also a season for us to mix things up a bit, starting by reintroducing some familiar faces.

Internally the leadership team and board of directors have been evaluating employee, client, and community member surveys, strengths of the agency, and seeing how our resources can best match the responses to the surveys to help us shape the agency to the right fit for the community. Culture, needs, and resources seem to be moving faster and faster, and it has been great to watch the above-mentioned teams put their great minds and experience to work to adapt just as fast.

SPBHS
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Board of Directors

Brian Partridge, President
Tim Sheffel, Secretary
Morris Richardson, Member
Ahnies Litecky, Member
Jocelyn Brown, Member
John Calhoun, Member
Lisa Harbold-Pitta, Member

Lisa Harbold-Pitta Joins The Center's Board of Directors



The Center is pleased to welcome Lisa Harbold-Pitta as the newest member of its Board of Directors. With a distinguished career in behavioral health services spanning over two decades, Lisa brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to supporting individuals and families in need. Lisa's professional journey reflects a lifelong dedication to empowering communities through mental health and developmental disability services. Her tenure at South Peninsula Behavioral Health Services in Homer, Alaska, has seen her excel in numerous leadership roles. From serving as the Community Services Director (2019-2021) to her previous positions as the Intellectual/Developmental Disability Services Program Director, Child & Family Services Lead Case Manager, and Adult Mental Health Activity Director, Lisa has consistently been a catalyst for improvement in rehabilitative and habilitative services. Her work has focused on ensuring high-quality, client-centered care that fosters independence, resilience, and personal growth.

Lisa's experience extends beyond SPBHS, having worked in various capacities across Alaska and Canada. From her early career as a Treatment Program Supervisor at Alaska Children's Services to her role as a Youth Addictions Program Counselor in British Columbia, she has demonstrated a profound ability to guide, mentor, and advocate for individuals facing complex challenges. Her expertise in case management, risk assessment, service coordination, and staff development will be invaluable as she contributes to The Center's mission.

Expressing her enthusiasm about joining the board, Lisa shared, "I have always believed in the efficacy of the services we provide when we work together and communicate at our best. With feelings of humility, I was honored to be trusted in the lives of others and am excited to be welcomed back by the board of directors to participate in the important work at The Center by the clients and staff of our community."

Lisa's commitment to collaboration, innovation, and compassionate care aligns seamlessly with The Center's values. Her leadership and insight will play a crucial role in shaping the future of our programs and ensuring that we continue to meet the evolving needs of our community. Please join us in welcoming Lisa Harbold-Pitta to The Center's Board of Directors. We look forward to the positive impact her expertise and passion will bring to our organization!



photo credit: Stephanie Young



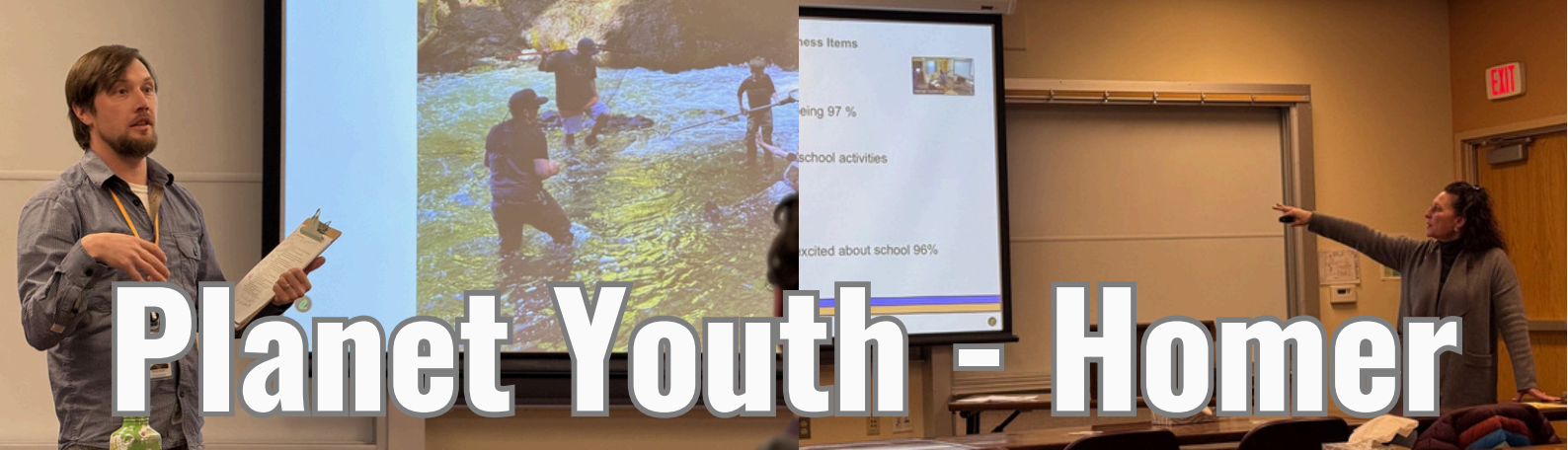
Christy Russ Named Program Manager for Adult Rehab Services

The Center is excited to introduce Christy Russ as the new Program Manager for Adult Rehab Services. Christy brings a rich background in education, community service, and behavioral health, making her a valuable addition to the leadership team. Christy's journey began with her time in the Peace Corps, where she developed a passion for service and community engagement. She went on to teach kindergarten and first grade in Madison, Wisconsin, from 1997 through 2010, fostering a strong foundation in mentorship and education.

Seeking a new adventure, Christy moved to Alaska when an opportunity arose through her family. She joined South Peninsula Behavioral Health Services in October 2010 as a Direct Service Provider, demonstrating her dedication to supporting individuals in need. Her leadership skills were soon recognized, and in August 2012, she became a Coordinator for TRAILS, an activity program of the Independent Living Center. In May 2016, she returned to SPBHS as a Direct Service Provider with the Pride Department before being promoted to Pride Program Manager in June 2019.

Now, as the Program Manager for Adult Rehab Services, Christy is eager to continue her mission of empowering individuals on their paths to recovery and independence. Her diverse experience and deep commitment to service will be instrumental in enhancing the quality and impact of the program.

Please join us in congratulating Christy Russ on her new role. We look forward to the positive contributions she will make to The Center and the individuals we serve!



On February 6th, community members gathered at Kenai Peninsula College – Kachemak Bay Campus for an engaging and informative evening hosted by Planet Youth Homer. The event, aimed at supporting youth and fostering a collaborative approach to their well-being, saw a strong turnout of parents, caregivers, and local professionals eager to contribute to the conversation about youth support systems.

The event featured a series of community presentations that highlighted the collective efforts of various service providers. Kari Dendurent, Assistant Superintendent of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, shared insightful data collected from the school district on teen well-being and their connection to resources.

The night also featured a presentation from SPBHS's Rudy Multz, who focused on upstream services—preventative measures designed to address challenges before they escalate. He emphasized the power of a like-minded community in mitigating risks such as teen involvement in at-risk behaviors and houselessness. His talk underscored the importance of early intervention and collaborative support systems in fostering a healthier future for local youth.

The event also featured discussions led by Lieutenant Ryan Browning from the Homer Police Department, who provided updates on teen online safety and data protection. Additionally, an open Q&A session allowed attendees to engage directly with youth-serving professionals, ensuring their concerns and ideas were heard.

Overall, the evening was marked by a shared enthusiasm for the direction in which local youth services are headed. Attendees expressed appreciation for the collaborative efforts and the proactive approaches being taken to create a supportive environment for the young people of Homer. With continued community involvement, Planet Youth Homer aims to build on this momentum and further strengthen resources available to local youth.

February Anniversaries

2023 - Angela Smith

2022 - Andrew Umberger

2020 - Teresa Krueger

2016 - Jackie Miller

2014 - Megan Holley

2011 - Brian Ormond

2006 - Tony Meitler

2003 - Richard Everett

2002 - Barb Kaun

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 settings 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.

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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.

