



# Happy New Year!

We are sailing into 2025 at full steam! We rang in the New Year with groups, trainings, and community events that not only served our clients, but also brought community resources with similar missions under one roof.

And we have even more on the horizon to be excited about. Development is underway of a new three year strategic plan that I'm excited to cover in coming issues. And look out for news on a new podcast.

2025 is going to be a year of exciting updates, fun collaborations, and lasting partnerships. Lets dig into the next few pages to see the wheels already turning. LET'S GO!

**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





## Winter Break Groups

Throughout the year, the teams at SPBHS are running therapeutic groups both at the SPBHS campuses and in the community. During the holiday season through New Years we had some extra special groups happening. The Children's Department staff and clients were frequent flyers at Beluga Lake and at the ice rink. It was a great opportunity for children to learn new skills. We had clients going from never having skated and barely shuffling along the ice, to independently skating and more importantly trying new things, learning to rise to challenges, overcoming challenges, and accomplishing.

The Pride program had Christmas and New Year's dinners together, during which the residents of Brookside got stocking stuffers and gift cards. These events highlight how a huge part of the skills building and life teaching is community, and how culture plays into our overall wellness. Bringing people together over a meal, experiencing connectedness and joy together. We are thankful for our staff that invest their time and energy into our clients and recipients, we are thankful that we have been able to provide meals, staff, and venues for these events.

## Community Art and Wellness

We are very excited to be working with Homer Council on the Arts on a community art and wellness project. Clinician Drue Smith is working with HCOA Director, Scott Bartlett, on a teen art installation that will involve teens from middle school through high school age, first participating in school, then at the HCOA facility. The focus of the project will be the relationship between art, community, and wellness and is being funded by a grant from the Alaska Council on the Arts, which was awarded to HCOA.





January Anniversaries

2024 - Jeanne Clifford

2017 - Jay Bechtol

2003 - Dina Gherman



HOMER CARES ABOUT  
OUR YOUNG PEOPLE



Help Youth Live Their Best Lives

Planet Youth Homer is a group of people in the community who want to help youth live their best lives. This grassroots community effort uses a proven model to create a safe and supportive environment where youth have healthy experiences and get the care they need as they grow.

JOIN US Parents and Caregivers of Tweens and Teens!

An evening for parents and caregivers of youth, especially tweens and teenagers, to connect, get informed and get updated.



Thursday, February 6 @ 5:30pm – 7:30pm  
Kenai Peninsula College - Kachemak Bay Campus  
Dinner provided. Childcare provided.

TEENS WELCOME!

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

Planet Youth Homer Project History, Project and Goals of PY Homer Where Can I Homer project (Presentation by Youth Connectors) Teen Mental Health First Aid (Presentation by Certified Instructors)	Local data from the Hanover School Climate and Mindset Survey from 2023/2024 school year Presented by Kari Dendurent, Assistant Superintendent of Kenai Peninsula Borough School District	Discussion and updates on teen online safety and data Presented by Lieutenant Ryan Browning from HPD	Q&A discussion With youth serving professionals
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Please reach out for more information and to get involved:  
Anna Meredith, Youth Project Manager | [anna@elementalconsulting.solutions](mailto:anna@elementalconsulting.solutions)





# Need Help?



Anyone in need of resources is invited to attend this free one-day event.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

A one day event with help for those facing financial instability, homelessness, or at risk of being homeless.

Connect with over 20 local vendors offering resources related to food, employment info, health care, mental health, health screenings, and more!

## GET FREE SUPPLIES:

- emergency gear
- backpacks
- comfort packs
- food to-go
- sleeping bags
- hygiene kits
- winter gear
- and more...



# Community Resource Connect

On January 28th, South Peninsula Behavioral Health Services was represented by Abby Ferrer, Rudy Multz, and Ashley Moore at the 5th Annual Community Resource Connect, held at the SPARC building.

The Kenai Peninsula Project Homeless Connect describes the event as: "Community Resource Connect is part of the Kenai Peninsula Project Homeless Connect, whose mission is to help those who are experiencing or at risk for houselessness achieve stability."

During the event, Abby served as an Intake specialist, helping to collect information for KPPHC, Rudy coordinated with other community partners to help cover their booths, which was an excellent opportunity to learn more about other resources, and Ashley covered the SPBHS booth, giving out over 30 snack packs, reflective vests, and educating community members about SPBHS services.



## 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.

SPBHS  
3948 Ben Walters Lane  
Homer, AK, 99603

[www.SPBHS.org](http://www.SPBHS.org)

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



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STAMP  
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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.

