



The Center Stage
SOUTH PENINSULA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
 VOL. 3 ISSUE 4/5 · MAY/JUNE 2025

Growing Season at The Center!

As summer stretches across the peninsula, growth is in full swing at The Center—inside and out. We’ve braved spring storms with open hearts, launched new traditions, and watched our partnerships blossom into nourishment, joy, and resilience for the youth and families we serve. From keynote speeches to volcano eruptions, there’s a lot to celebrate in these pages.

SPBHS
 est 1979

Board of Directors

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





Rain Can't Stop Us Now!

Even under a cloudy sky, the sunshine of community shone brightly during the first-ever Town-Lap Walk-A-Thon, presented by Bay Realty, Peninsula Radio Group, and Moore Music. In spite of the rain, the event was a great success—participants showed up in boots and raincoats, and many others chose to donate instead of walk.

Special thanks to:

Alice's Champagne Palace
Homer Real Estate
Kachemak Center
Kenai Peninsula College (for use of the space)
Story Real Estate

Together, we walked, gave, and raised funds for the transformation of The Annex into a Teen Community Resource Center.



KPC Commencement



On May 7th, our CEO Jay Bechtol was honored to deliver the keynote address at the Kenai Peninsula College Kachemak Bay Campus commencement ceremony. Seen here with Campus Director and SPBHS Board President Brian Partridge, Jay's presence as both speaker and mental health advocate left a meaningful impression on this year's graduates.



A Volcano of Curiosity

On May 17th, SPBHS staff participated in the annual Safe & Healthy Kids Fair. The Children's Department hosted an erupting volcano activity, delighting young visitors while sparking conversations about emotional regulation, resilience, and fun!

May Anniversaries

- Brent Harmon – 2024
- Mark Prindle – 2024
- Mason Smith – 2022
- Sarah Julig – 2022
- Donna Duncan – 2022
- Janet O'Rourke – 2007
- Carla Meitler – 2004

June Anniversaries

- Lara Fleenor – 1989

Summer Support for the Children's Program

This summer's children's programming has been made stronger thanks to some incredible partnerships: The Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies has brought wonder and nature-based learning into our groups. Eagle Enterprises generously donated vital safety equipment to help our children explore safely. Glacierview Baptist Church provided nourishing lunches that have kept our kids fueled and focused. These acts of generosity are helping build a summer of joy, discovery, and connection. To all who support our youth—you are part of building their resiliency.

Investing Upstream:



Building Resiliency for Our Youth

Every young person in our community carries potential—and every one of them will face challenge. The difference between floundering and flourishing often comes down to one quiet, powerful skill: **resilience.**

Resiliency doesn't just happen. It's nurtured. It's built in safe spaces, through supportive relationships, and by helping youth navigate difficult emotions, failures, and transitions with dignity and hope. That's why we believe in prevention —*not as a buzzword*, but as a life-giving, cost-saving, community-shaping practice.

When we talk about upstream services, we're talking about giving teens the tools and community they need before a crisis hits. We're talking about mental health support that doesn't wait until someone is in danger. We're talking about mentorship, skill-building, connection, and care.

That's why we're fundraising to create a **Teen Community Resource Center**—a space where young people can find rest, find resources, and find their own way forward. It will be a *safe harbor*: a place for support groups, creative expression, quiet reflection, community meals, and access to behavioral health services. A place where youth aren't just seen, but known.

Prevention isn't just compassionate—it's cost-effective. Every dollar spent upstream reduces the need for emergency services, hospital stays, legal interventions, and future cycles of poverty, isolation, and homelessness. Every young person who learns to cope, connect, and grow contributes back to a stronger, safer, more vibrant Homer.

But we can't do this alone.

This is a community effort, and we're inviting every business, neighbor, and caring adult to be part of it. Whether you give, sponsor, advocate, or share—we need your voice in this story.

Let's create a space that helps our teens become resilient, resourceful, and rooted right here in this community. Let's build upstream—together.

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.

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(yes, we still fax things)



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