

VOL. 2 ISSUE 9 · SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024



SOUTH PENINSULA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Center Stage

New Opportunities on the Horizon

In the 45 years SPBHS has been anchored as a community staple in the Southern Kenai Peninsula, it has weathered many changes and grown in both times of plenty, and times of challenge. As we look forward at the next 45 years, we look to a new era as we continue to develop services such as Peer Support, and our employment support service. We think of creative ways to deliver child services in school, and DD/IDD services, we embrace new relationships with community stakeholders who share a like minded vision of community health. We are also looking forward at a new era of fundraising, a time to develop a deeper relationship with the community, and increase the community's familiarity with SPBHS, and together destigmatize behavioral health. Lets explore these in the coming pages.



SPBHS
est 1979

Board of Directors

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

Sept/Oct Events

SEPT 12TH - OPEN HOUSE
@PARKSIDE CAMPUS

SEPT 13TH - 45TH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION CONCERT
AND FUNDRAISER

OCT 17TH SPBHS BOARD
MEETING



Direct Service Provider Appreciation Week

There are MANY components to our agency, that is providing a myriad of services to our community members. And on the frontline, working with our clients in real world settings like school, or work, or just navigating life, are our Direct Service Providers (DSP). Today it is my pleasure to highlight two of our veteran DSP staff, from two different departments.



Susan Burpee has been working with clients for nearly 5 years. She has held the position of DSP and is now a Peer Support Specialist, which is a newer iteration of Direct Service Provider, calling on not only her work experience, but her life experience as well. Susan says she wanted to start working at SPBHS because she was inspired by DSPs she had seen working with other clients, and her personal faith which directs her to help others. One of the things she appreciates about working for SPBHS is all the trainings she has been able to attend and getting certified through the State as a Peer Support Specialist. She says one of the most rewarding parts of the jobs is clients appreciate, and it makes them feel valued, but she also says of Peer Support, “That’s what I love. Investing in people with no expectation of that being returned.”

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SUSAN BURPEE





**“It’s great
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JACKIE MILLER

Direct Service Provider Appreciation Week (cont.)

Jackie Miller has been with the children’s department for nearly 9 years. Jackie started doing this work because she “loves to help people and working at the Center gives me endless opportunities to help the kids in our community.” In her time with the agency, Jackie has been assigned to multiple schools and has also helped with summer group. When asked why would you recommend working at SPBHS, Jackie says, “It’s great to work with other people who have the same goals of helping others.”

Invested staff, teaming with clients, leads to transformed lives. Our direct service providers may start their day with a quick staff briefing, or by collecting the keys to one of SPBHS’ vans, or by hanging their coat in a school staff lounge, then enter one of our facilities, or the community, or one of the area schools to greet their clients and their day. Out in the world, boots on the ground, helping clients find healthy ways to respond and navigate to the world around them.

Back in the building they are part of an overall treatment team, and through communication with their case manager and the directing clinician, help report on client progress and are an integral part in shaping client outcomes.

Their skill set requires training in effective interventions and teaching life skills to their clients that are applicable in daily life. Rapport building with their client, for their work requires the highest levels of customer service. In some settings they are required to also be excellent chameleons, as they can’t draw attention to themselves or obviously be working with a single client, as that may breach their client's confidentiality. And of course, helping their client eventually become independent of their services, and with each client, slowly working themselves out of a job, as a treatment team’s success can also involve a client completing treatment, and graduating from services.

We are proud of our Direct Service Providers, leaders in compassion and empowerment, and advocates for those they serve.



A Fond Farewell

-ASHLEY MOORE

In January of 2017, Journeys grew by one Jon McGhee, having come from a background in nonprofit work at several levels of management, Jon wasn't going to last long in an entry level position wherever he went. It wasn't very long before Jon was steering our own supported employment program.



Under Jon's guidance IPS at the Center became one of the leading programs in the state, and among the highest rated in the nation. Jon has been the fearless leader of the Adult Rehab program that has now grown to include Peer Support. Upon helping each program within his department reach operational and near self-sufficient capacity, Jon accepted an offer as the Executive Director with Sprout, but only after he felt confident the programs in his care were healthy enough for a leadership transition. Jon's thoughtful departure speaks volumes of his integrity and leadership style. We are sad to say farewell to such a great team member and friend but are excited for what he is bringing to Sprout, and that he's still close enough for us to crash his office from time to time. Congratulations Jon McGhee, we wish you the best.





Anniversary Celebration and Fundraiser

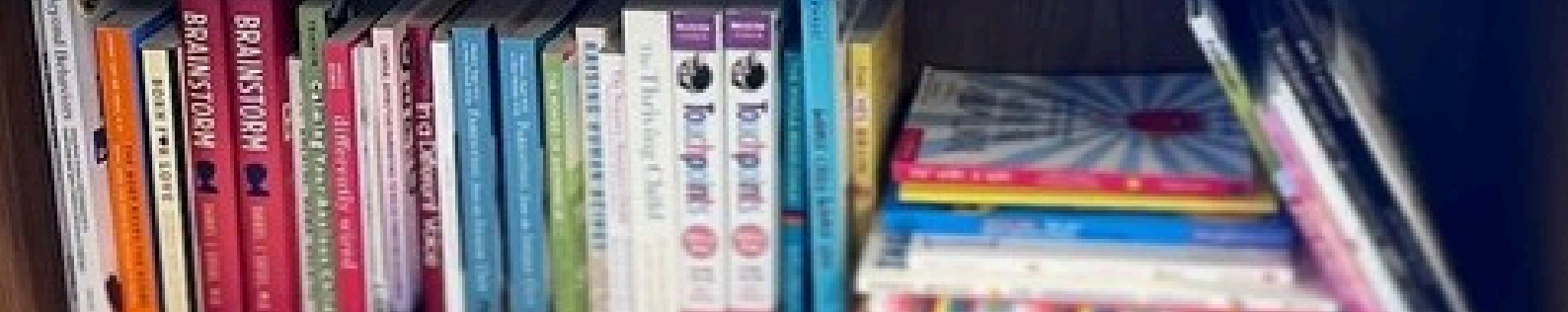
Friday, September 13, SPBHS held our first ever fundraiser, as we celebrated our 45th anniversary with a concert open to the public at Alice's Champagne Palace. The event was a great success! Every seat in the house was full, and the dancefloor was bouncing.



Three acts took the stage, opening with our very own Rudy Multz, followed by She Who's Gone Mad (Maddie Moore on guitar and Maddy Jones on keys), and closed out by Jacques Longpre and Co. which was Jacques' Homer debut of his full band which have played all over the peninsula so far this year. In between each group we heard from several guest, including Board President Brian Partridge, and two very special guests, Tanya and Eddie. Throughout the venue were NOT-Auction posters with QR codes people could scan to give a donation, and we had a donation jar at the door. Total donations for the night were \$4126. It was a fun celebration and a great kick-off fundraiser. Stick around, we have more events to follow, as we start this new chapter in SPBHS history.

**\$3300 in our
NOT-Auction
\$826 in
donations
at the door.**





Lending Library at The Center

South Peninsula Behavioral Health Services is pleased to announce the successful launch of our Lending Library.

Located within our Child and Family Department waiting room in the main Center Building, you can find our Lending Library. There you can check out resources for families to help navigate mile stones, learn coping and parenting techniques, and teach children through social stories.

We are grateful for the Homer Foundation as their support in made this resource possible. Check out this review of one of our lending library books below.

Howling with Huskies and Other Ways to Feel Good

review by Laura Busby



Linda Chamberlain's *Howling with Huskies and Other Ways to Feel Good* is a warm and uplifting book that shows how everyday moments can make us happier. It mixes fun stories about her Siberian Huskies with easy tips for feeling better, making it both engaging and helpful.

The book starts with Chamberlain sharing stories about her Huskies and how they've helped her find joy. Their playful behavior and loving nature have a big impact on her mood, and how spending time with her dogs and enjoying their company adds to her happiness. These stories set an uplifting tone for the rest of the book.

As you read on, Chamberlain shifts from sharing personal stories to offering practical advice for improving your mood and well-being. She talks about things such as being mindful, thinking positively, and appreciating small joys in life. Her friendly and easy-to-read style makes these tips clear and simple for kids to understand and follow. I highly recommend this book to anyone looking for ideas for boosting your emotional health and well-being through everyday practices.

An excellent
resource for
families, made
possible by a
grant awarded
by the Homer
Foundation.



A Safer Ben Walters Ln

One of the great benefits of a small town is how many things are within walking distance, and one of the nice things about four of our campuses is that they are all connected directly or indirectly to Ben Walters Ln. However, as Homer has grown, so too has the traffic by foot and vehicle.

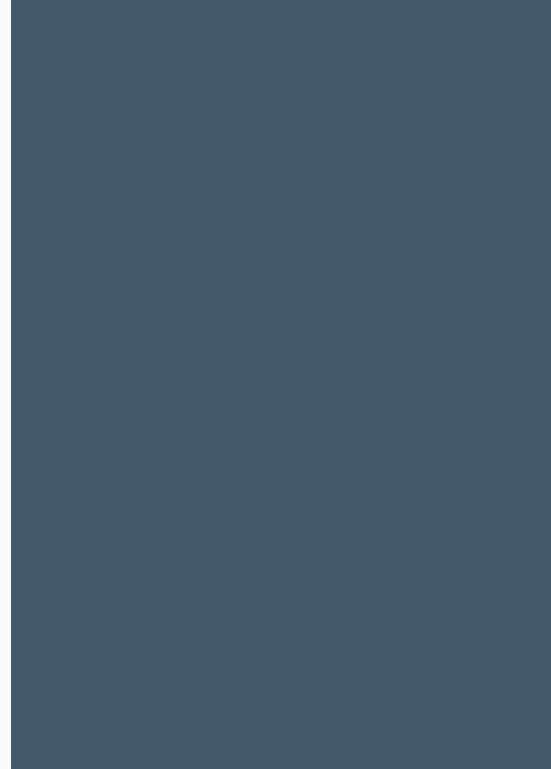


This year the Homer City Council was able to procure funding to make walking on Ben Walters safer with the addition of a beautiful new sidewalk.

Jay and Ash were able to attend the ribbon cutting event, and our staff and clients have been happily using the sidewalk since it's completion.

Along with the construction of the sidewalk, the city took care of a nasty culvert problem that made access to our Parkside campus a very lumpy (albeit Alaskan) experience, and it is now smooth as silk.

We are thankful for the City Council finding the funds, and to East Road Services for completing the work.



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)



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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.

