

45 Years!

In a time when everything changes around us so quickly, fewer and fewer things, or institutions are able to withstand the challenges of a rapidly evolving society. Government regulations are constantly changing, preferences of people served, and the preferred methods for delivering services continue to change over time. And for 45 years SPBHS has been able to adapt and change to meet those new regulations, meet new expectations, anticipate the needs of our population served, and adapt to a changing workforce.



The staying power, the life force, the anchor for our agency and what has propelled us forward, is our people. Dedicated, passionate front-line workers who advocate for their clients and their peers. Who seek the best training, supervision, and latest information to make sure they are delivering top notch, relevant services, to the people they care so much about. Supervisors who started in this field to work with people, then transferred their experience to positions to then be able to lead others in the same work, and to advocate on behalf of their staff. A strong core of mission support individuals, doing the administrative work to push the agency forward, handling the heavy lifting behind the scenes to keep the lights on, and help the agency navigate changing regulations.



The 45th anniversary of SPBHS is ushering in a time of fresh energy and ideas. It has been an honor to serve this community, and we are excited about what the next year will bring.



SPBHS
EST. 1979

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UPCOMING EVENTS

September –45th Anniversary Celebration *more details to come

Congratulations to our IPS Team for another successful Fidelity Review



Individual Placements and Support (IPS), is a model of supported employment, that supports individuals with varying degrees of mental health challenges with resume building, interview coaching, assistance with communicating with an employer, and advocacy with an employer.

SPBHS started offering IPS services 7 years ago. As part of an evidenced based model, IPS programs are subject to fidelity reviews by a review team at the state level. For 6 of the 7 years SPBHS has been providing IPS services, we have achieved high fidelity scores, scoring amongst the best in the state.

I recently sat down with Teresa Krueger to discuss the work that she and Andrew Umberger are doing with the IPS Program. Teresa says that one of the things that motivates her in her position is “Helping individuals get back into the workforce regardless of disability or mental health challenges.” Teresa had been working in a school district and was assigned a high school transition class, and fell in love with helping students get involved in the workforce. And when she moved to Homer, was delighted to find there was an opportunity to apply her knowledge and skills in our IPS program.

“In the last 7 years we have placed clients in over 150 jobs, hitting a 60% employment rate over that same time period.”



Well done with your Fidelity Review, and for operating such a successful program.



Happy 10th Anniversary!

2014 doesn't feel like it was 10 years ago. Maybe because 2020 through 2022 all kind of blur together. But it is exactly how long ago Daniel Allen and Kathryn Dziekan joined our team.

Some things are a given about Daniel, he is our IT guy, so of course his workstation has not one, not two, but three screens. He prefers PC to gaming consoles when it comes to gaming, heck he prefers PC to Mac in general. But a surprising fact, Daniel once was a part of ABATE of Anchorage and Chugiak (Alaska Biker [as in motorcyclist] Advocacy Training and Education). After moving down in 2012, Daniel was working for a service provider that did computer and phone service work for several agencies in Homer, including SPBHS. As that company began to waiver, he signed on full time with us and has been our steadfast technologies guru ever since.

Before coming on-board at SPBHS Dr. Kat had been a mental health and addiction clinician along with being an Associate Professor teaching counseling students. She has specialties in psychiatric rehabilitation, addictions, learning disabilities, diversity, and distance education. Dr. Dziekan has served clients and students in a variety of states from Wisconsin to New York to Montana to Connecticut to Hawaii to New Mexico now in Alaska and Colorado. She enjoys experiencing life by traveling, hiking alone, being with friends, family, and her dog.



Journeys launches the Journeys Advisory Council

The Journey's program has initiated the Journeys Advisory Council, which meets once a month to determine upcoming events for the clients and staff. The meetings have been well attended thus far with 7 to 9 clients participating in each planning event. This has been an excellent way to help clients to engage in their treatment, and reinforce their autonomy as individuals participating in the planning of their own treatment activities. Their kick-off BBQ was a great success, their next meeting is July 11th.

34 Years of the ADA

On July 26th, 1990 the American Disabilities Act was signed into law. Following reports in 1986 and 1988, from the agency that would later be known as the National Council on Disability, which included legislative recommendations on enacting a comprehensive equal opportunity law. The initial version of the Americans with Disabilities Act was introduced as a bipartisan effort to eliminate discrimination against individuals experiencing disabilities. A revised version was introduced to the 101st congress in 1989, then was passed by the Senate, 76 to 8. In 1990 the ADA was signed by President George H. W. Bush, regulations were then issued in 1991 governing access on everything from parking to voting. These laws would then become effective between 1991 and 1994. In 1999 the Supreme Court ruled in *Olmstead v L.C.*, recognizing that the "unjustified institutional isolation of persons with disabilities is a form of discrimination" and holding that services must be provided in integrated, community-based settings when possible.



Pier One Theatre

Teams up with SPBHS

The Mud Bay Bards, a creative branch of Pier One Theatre that focuses on works of William Shakespeare, recently put on a production of Hamlet. And as part of the preparation for that event, Pier One invited SPBHS Clinical Director Donna Duncan to facilitate a conversation with the cast and crew regarding some of the heavy themes within the writing. It was an excellent opportunity to raise awareness about mental health, that was very appreciated by the volunteers at Pier One, and we were happy that Donna was able to support them with them great opportunity.



A Celebration is Coming!

In September, SPBHS will be throwing our 45th Anniversary Celebration. It will be 3 days of events that closes with a party/fundraiser at Alice's Champagne Palace on Friday September 13th. We will have live music at each event, and will be rolling out a new to us fundraising platform, and some great ways for donors to give. Be on the lookout for more information on our Facebook and Instagram pages, as well as in our upcoming newsletters. We are so excited to see you there!

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 Developmental 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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