

Inyo County Behavioral Health Program Updates

April 2025

Behavioral Health Updates – Gina Ellis

Staffing Update

- John Laux is no longer with the County. HHS Administration is actively covering staffing needs.
- Holly Katawan joined as an HHS Specialist IV working with our Children & Families and is doing a tremendous job!

Program Highlights

- Collaborations with Toiyabe and Mono County
- Public Conservator Seminar attendance
- External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) review conducted

Challenges / Barriers

- Continued staffing recruitment
- Ongoing development of CARE Court

Family Strengthening Team Updates – Jody Veenker

Services Provided

The Family Strengthening Team is currently serving 8 families and has 4 others in the orientation phase. There are 30 children and 15 adults receiving services within the 8 already approved families. Many of our current families are managing challenges related to autism, ADHD, and other forms of neurodivergence, in addition to serious trauma. We are also partnering with Mono County Wraparound to support families that move between counties. In collaboration with the Behavioral Health Child & Family Team, we are providing PC CARE Play Therapy and supporting their Summer Camp programming.

Key Data / Statistics

- Clients Served: 45 (30 children, 15 adults)
- New Intakes: 4 families in orientation

Staffing Update

No updates.

Program Highlights

- Continued partnership with Mono County Wraparound and BH Child & Family Team
- Planning Mental Health Awareness Walk (May 28, 2025) – flyer attached

Challenges / Barriers

- Families facing complex BH needs including neurodivergence and trauma—requires intensive coordination

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DUI Program Update – Carri Coudek

Key Data / Statistics

March DUI:

ENROLLMENTS: Education (W & R) = 5, 3 months = 5, 18 months = 4

COMPLETIONS: W & R = 1, 18 months = 1

April DUI:

ENROLLMENTS: Education (W & R) = 3, 3 months = 2, 18 months = 2

COMPLETIONS: W & R = 1, 18 months = 1

Staffing Update

Two Addictions Counselor vacancies. Recruitment ongoing.

Challenges / Barriers

- Ongoing vacancies
- Need for improved outreach strategies

SUD Program Update – Carri Coudek

Key Data / Statistics

- Billable, Active SUD clients: March = 8, April = 9

(*Excludes Drug Court or ICJ groups)

Staffing Update

Two Addictions Counselor vacancies. Recruitment ongoing.

Challenges / Barriers

- Ongoing vacancies
- Need for improved outreach strategies

Wellness Center Updates – Vivian DeLaRiva

Services Provided

- Bishop Wellness Center: Showers, laundry, cooking for others, food support, case management, and supportive services.
- Lone Pine Wellness Center: Showers, laundry, case management, and supportive services.

Key Data / Statistics

- Bishop Wellness Center: 407 clients, 4 groups/week
- Lone Pine Wellness Center: 46 clients

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Staffing Update

- Acting Manager: Vivian DeLaRiva (covering for Vanessa Ruggio)
- Leah Harris started as A-Par HHS Specialist and is doing well.

Program Highlights

- Successful Spring BBQ held on April 18: 'Say Goodbye to Chilly Weather and Hello to Chili Dogs!'

Challenges / Barriers

- Neighbor relations—actively working to build a positive connection

Progress House Updates – Kelly Nugent

Key Data / Statistics

- 5 residents currently
- 1 respite placement in the last month

Staffing Update

One Residential Caregiver vacancy. Interviews scheduled for 05/21/25.

Program Highlights

- Collaborated with Social & Placement Services to support LPS Conservatee reentry—strong teamwork.

Challenges / Barriers

- Ongoing recruitment