

Inyo County Behavioral Health Program Updates

June 2025

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. As families transition into summer schedules, we are celebrating children's school successes with Keough's Swim Passes and scheduling outdoor activities to model inexpensive and fun family activities outdoors to introduce new strengthening skills to parents, while deepening familial bonds.

Key Data / Statistics

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

Staffing Update

Our team plans to offer our same range of Fall supports to families as the school year gears up with team member Ethan Brown strategizing to utilize parental leave in this season as a new baby joins his family. Please join us in congratulating Ethan, our soon to be father of 2 (he currently has a 2-year-old daughter, Emmy)!

Program Highlights

The Mental Health Awareness Walk in May was a success with 58 registered participants, and many more attendees who walked Bishop City Park, got behavioral health information resources, and ate hog dog lunches! Toiyabe, Crossroads Recovery Center, OVCD, Veteran Services, Probation, HHS Prevention, SUD, Wellness Center, and Aging Programs all participated in this supportive outreach organized by team member, Noni Raley.

Challenges / Barriers

The state will soon release an All County Letter (ACL) detailing the required process for High Fidelity Wraparound Certification. This next year will require a heavy administrative lift to rewrite policy and guidelines to match requirements, entering about 7 resources documents into 100 areas of fidelity on the State portal to demonstrate compliance for certification. This will move our team a step closer to Integrated Core Practice Model that CDSS, DHCS, and CA Juvenile Probation are requiring, but will pressure our partners to build more integrated processes that include teaming, when they have previously been operating more independently.

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DUI Program Update – Carri Coudek

Key Data / Statistics

May DUI:

ENROLLMENTS: Education (Wet & Reckless (W & R)) = 3, 3 months = 1, 18 months = 4

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

May DUI:

ENROLLMENTS: Education (W & R) = 1, 3 months = 0, 18 months = 2

COMPLETIONS: W & R = 1, 18 months = 1, 9 month=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: May = 8

(*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: 311 clients, 4 groups/week
- Lone Pine Wellness Center: 29 clients

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Staffing Update

- Acting Manager: Vivian DeLaRiva (covering for Vanessa Ruggio)
- Pending part time applicant hiring

Program Highlights

- Client participation in Lived Experience Presentation, lunch provided by Olga & Pete

Client participation in Mental Health Awareness Walk- 8 clients

Wellness Center Groups are interactive and well attended

Outdoor day use storage for Clients, well accepted and utilized

Challenges / Barriers

- The heat, possibly remaining open through lunch time Tues & Thurs

Progress House Updates – Gina McKinzey

Key Data / Statistics

- 4 residents currently
- 2 Potential admits in process

Staffing Updates

- The interview for the Residential Caregiver position was successful, and we're currently conducting a background check for the selected candidate.

Program Highlights

- Our program emphasizes continuous client support, high engagement in Wellness Center Groups, and unwavering assistance for individuals facing challenges.

Challenges Barriers

- Ongoing recruitment due to staffing shortage