

# INFORMATIONAL MEETING

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

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Date: February 11, 2026

Time: 2:30 PM

Location: Bishop COB Room 140, Lone Pine Wellness Center (satellite/virtual) and via Zoom

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting began at 2:30 pm. All attendees introduced themselves.

### MEMBERSHIP IN ATTENDANCE

In Person: Supervisor William Wadelton, Claude Peters

Virtual: none

### COMMUNITY & STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

In Person: Lori Bengochia, Lucy Vincent, Melissa Best-Baker,

Virtual: none

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

none

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION ITEM) – TABLED FOR LACK OF QUORUM

Minutes from January 14, 2026 meeting.

### 4. CBHPC (COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL) 2025 DATA NOTEBOOK REPORT ON WELLNESS AND RECOVERY CENTERS (INFORMATIONAL ITEM)

Presentation (Please see attached) by Melissa Best-Baker.

This presentation contains the results of a survey Inyo County Behavioral Health participated in: The County Behavioral Health Planning Council is required to advise California legislature on Behavioral Health issues. This year, they chose to survey about Wellness Centers. 45% of Wellness centers are county-run, others are run by non-profits.

Wellness Centers are community based and focus on community support - run by people with lived experience. There are 165 Wellness Centers identified throughout the state. Inyo County Behavioral Health has 2 Wellness Centers, one in Bishop and one in Lone Pine. They serve as service access points within our county.

Recognized outcomes include: reduced crisis, better engagement, participants becoming advocates; peer specialists, connecting people with housing.

## **5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR NEW YEAR (ACTION ITEM)**

Tabled to upcoming meeting - for lack of quorum

## **6. BHAB MEMBERSHIP UPDATE (STANDING INFORMATIONAL ITEM)**

Mrs. Best-Baker asked that posting for BHAB Members be opened again to recruit new members. Recent ads did not result in the receipt of new applications. Supervisor Wadleton said he will advocate for our BHAB group at the Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting.

## **7. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM UPDATE (INFORMATIONAL ITEM)**

Mrs. Best-Baker told BHAB members and meeting attendees that her contract for the position of HHS Deputy Director of Behavioral Health will go before the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

Newly employed: Mrs. Best-Baker shared the news that Joshua Vega has been hired as our new Program Manager - Behavioral Health. He already works for Health and Human Services (HHS) and he comes to us with Employment and Eligibility and CPS (Child Protection Services) experience. Sara Alden, also an experienced Inyo County employee, will join the Wellness Center tomorrow. Her experience from her work in the Housing Program will be useful in her new role of Case Manager.

Interviews are coming up for Progress House residential caregivers and addiction counselors. If we don't find a certified addiction counselor, we may implement a trainee program to help someone interested in learning and doing the hours required to take an Addiction Counselor position. Mr. Peters recommended we investigate the CARR service program.

## **8. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (BHSA) (STANDING INFORMATIONAL ITEM)**

Mrs. Bengochia stated that the draft plan will be ready for review by HHS leadership by the end of this month.

## **9. DATA REPORTS (INFORMATIONAL ITEM)**

Mrs. Best-Baker shared the Data Report Power Point (please see attached). She reported that the report now prints on fewer pages, as requested by BHAB Members.

Progress House's kitchen is being remodeled - it has been under demolition and reconstruction, thanks to a grant awarded for this purpose.

Supervisor Wadelton observed that the Lone Pine Wellness Center has a temporary banner rather than a permanent sign. Mrs. Bengochia explained this was due to the location being updated and recently achieving ADA-compliance. She said that leadership will work on getting a permanent sign.

## **10. OLD BUSINESS (INFORMATIONAL OR DISCUSSION ITEM)**

## **11. AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Election of officers for the new year
- Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) (standing informational item)

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

# WELLNESS & RECOVERY CENTERS



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
ADVISORY BOARD  
UPDATE



STATEWIDE  
FINDINGS & INYO  
COUNTY OVERVIEW

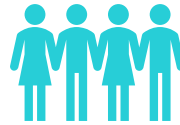


WELLNESS CENTERS  
SUPPORT RECOVERY  
& STABILITY

# WHY THIS MATTERS



Statewide review  
examined recovery  
centers across California



Centers help people  
access services before  
crises occur



Supports Behavioral  
Health transformation  
goals

# WHAT IS A WELLNESS & RECOVERY CENTER?

Community-based  
recovery and support  
spaces


Drop-in, voluntary  
engagement

Peer support and  
wellness activities


Help accessing  
treatment, housing, and  
employment services

# STATEWIDE SNAPSHOT

165 Wellness Centers  
identified statewide



Programs serve mental  
health and substance  
use populations



Most programs operate  
on recovery and peer  
support models



Centers function as  
access points into care

# SERVICES COMMONLY OFFERED

Peer support  
groups and  
wellness classes

Housing and  
benefits  
navigation

Employment and  
skill-building  
support

Meals, clothing,  
hygiene and  
transportation  
assistance



Reduced crisis episodes and hospitalizations



Improved housing and employment stability



Better engagement in treatment services



Participants becoming peer specialists and advocates

# OUTCOMES REPORTED ACROSS COUNTIES



Inyo County  
operates  
two  
Wellness  
Centers

Integrated  
with  
Behavioral  
Health  
services

Provides  
support in  
rural and  
isolated  
communities

Helps  
residents  
stabilize  
and access  
care

# INYO COUNTY OVERVIEW



# LOCAL COMMUNITY VALUE

# PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS



Maintain sustainable funding under BHSA changes



Expand peer support billing opportunities



Continue integration with housing programs



Evaluate service gaps and future needs

# KEY MESSAGE

Wellness Centers  
help residents  
stay stable and  
connected

They prevent  
crises and  
support recovery

Community-  
based support  
strengthens local  
systems

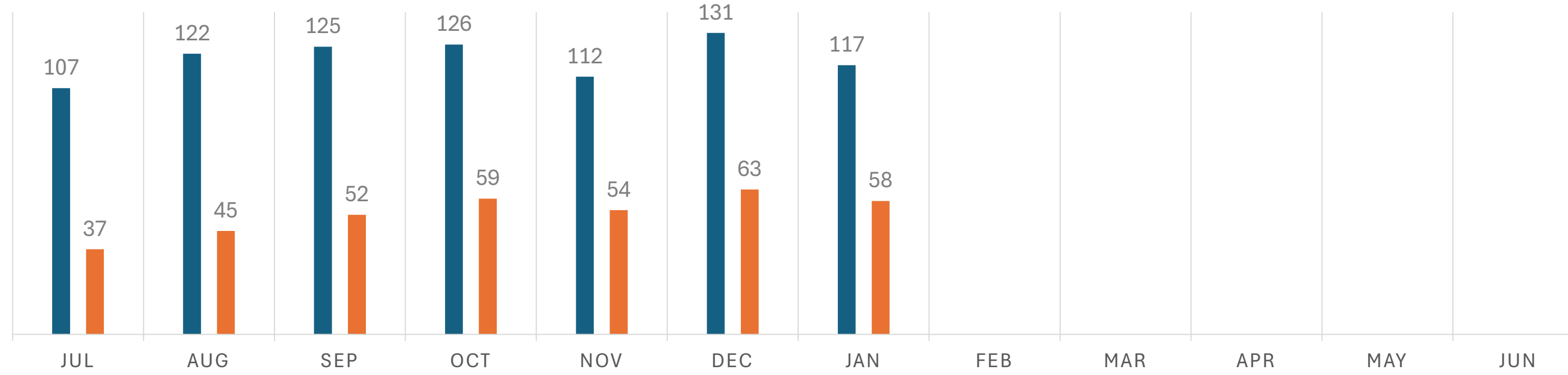


# Inyo County Behavioral Health

# Behavioral Health FY 25 -26 At -A-Glance

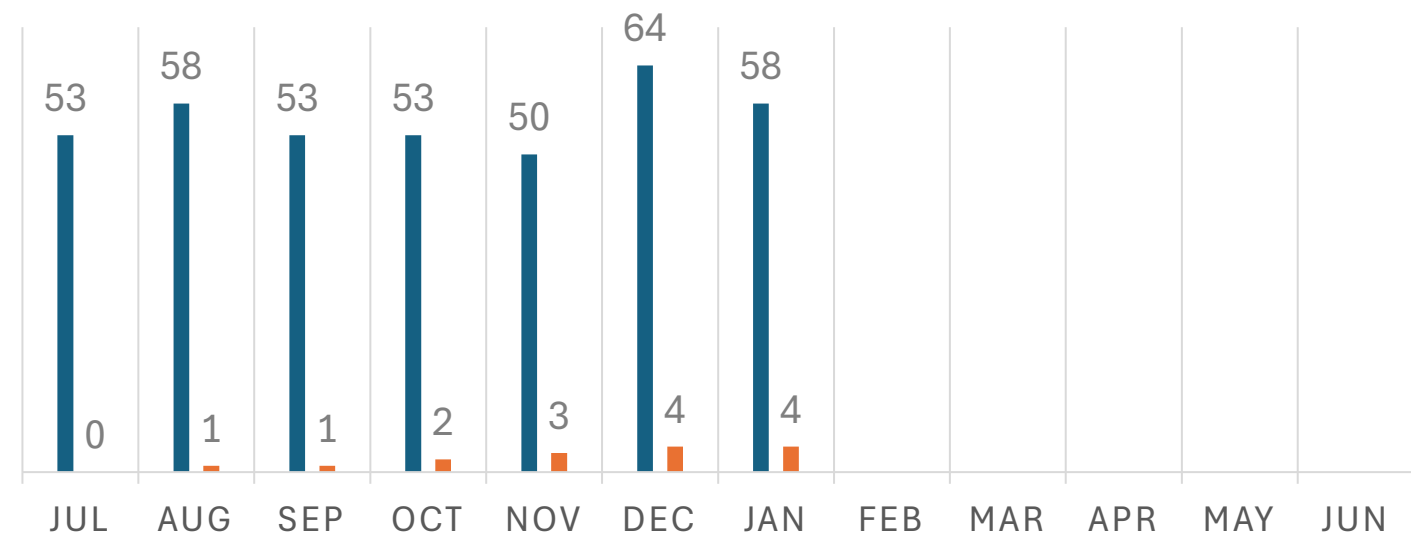
## Total Clients Served

■ Adult ■ Youth

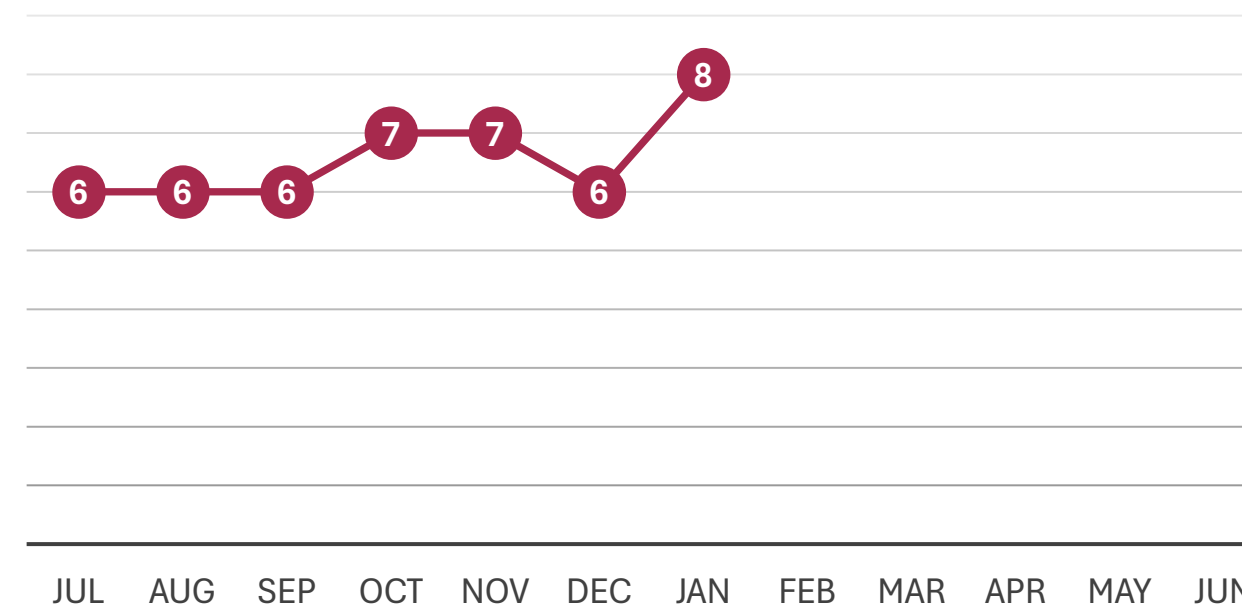


## Med Management Clients

■ Adult ■ Youth



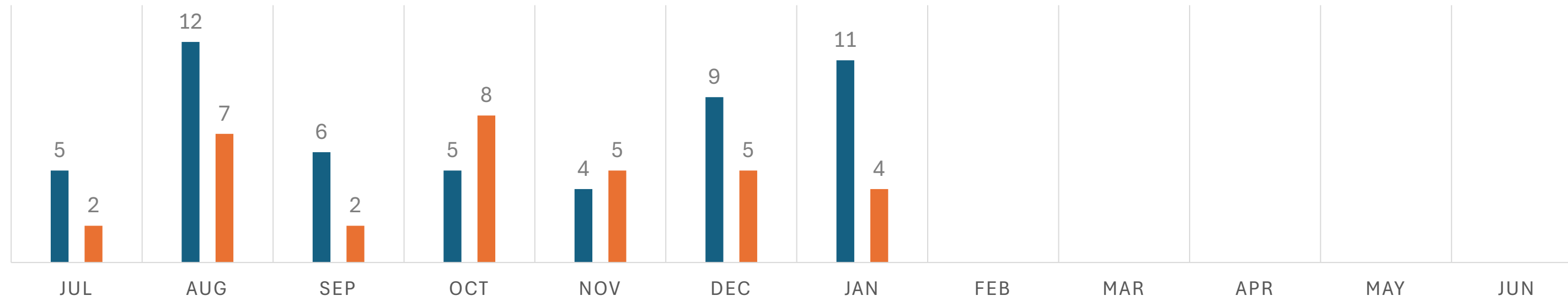
## Veterans Served



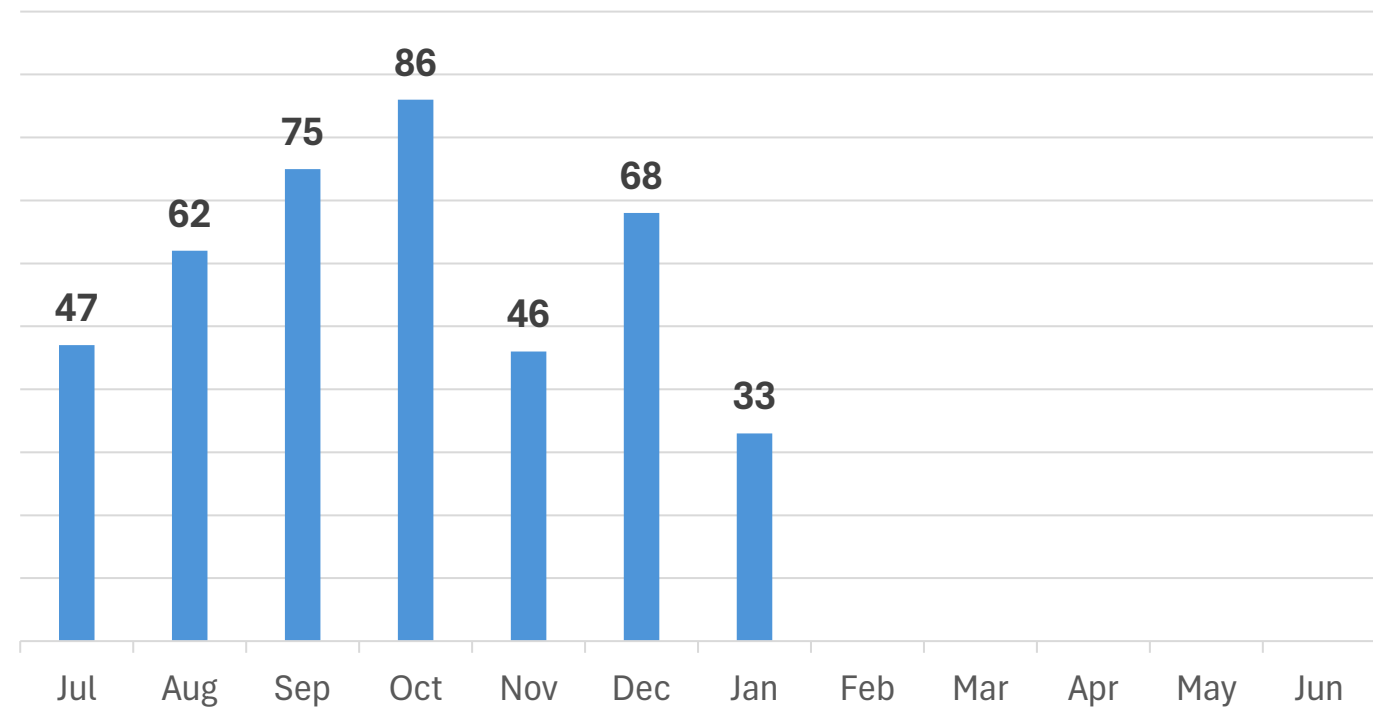
# Behavioral Health FY 25 -26 At -A-Glance

## New Mental Health Referred Clients

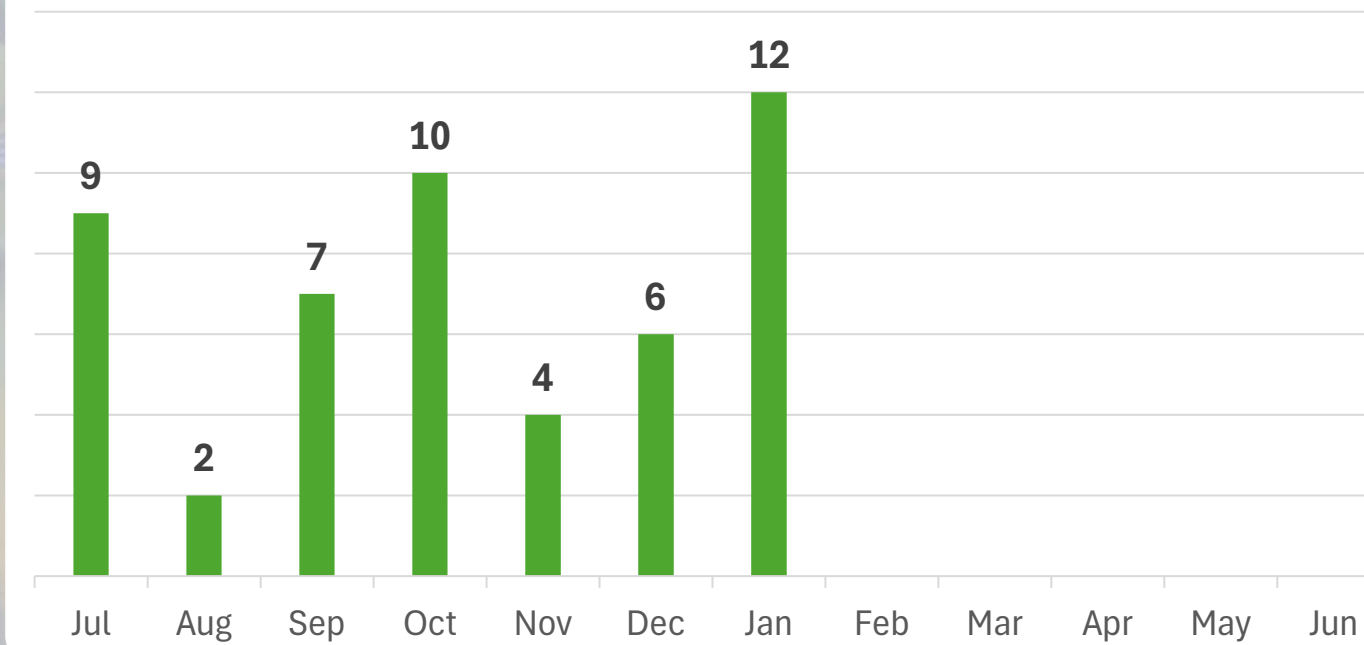
■ Adult ■ Youth



## Total Mental Health Assessments

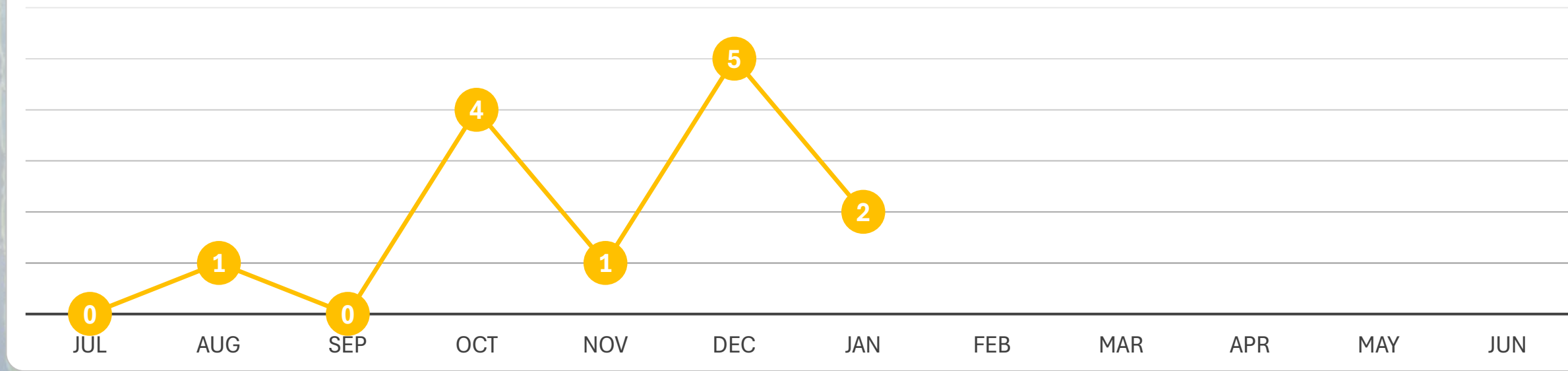


## Total Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)

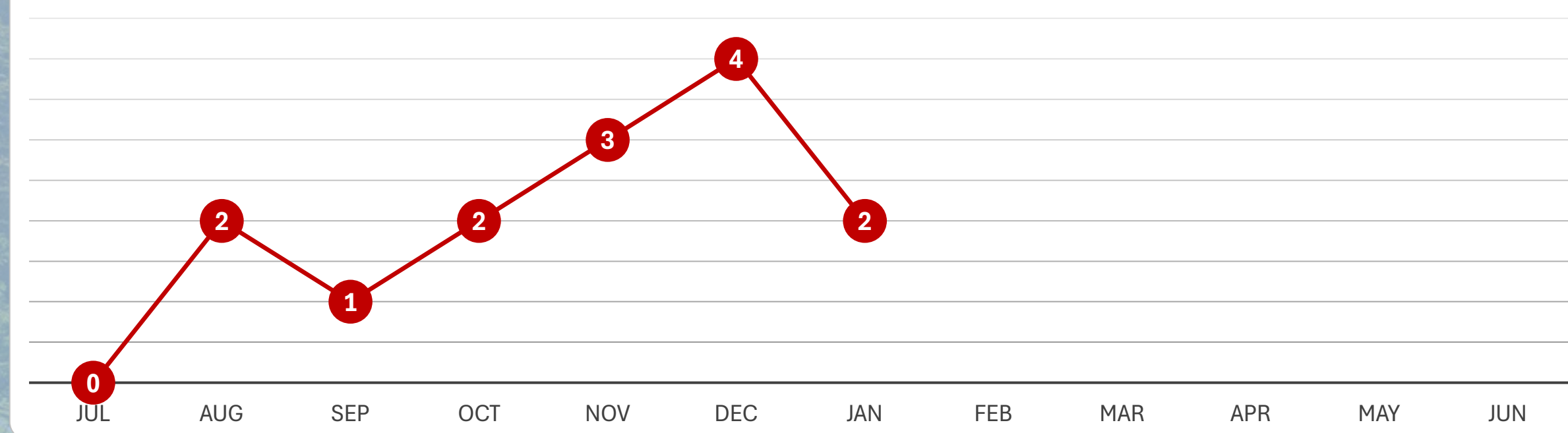


# Behavioral Health FY 25 -26 At -A-Glance

### Total Transports to a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)

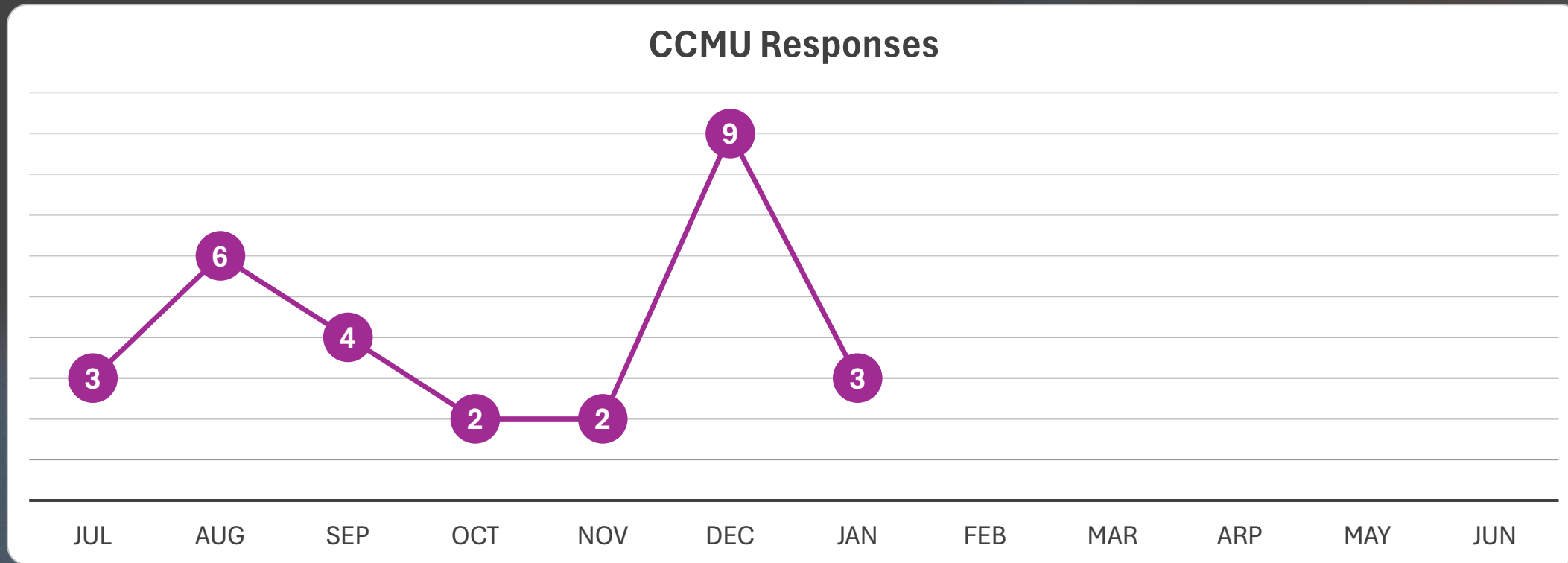


### Total Hospitalizations

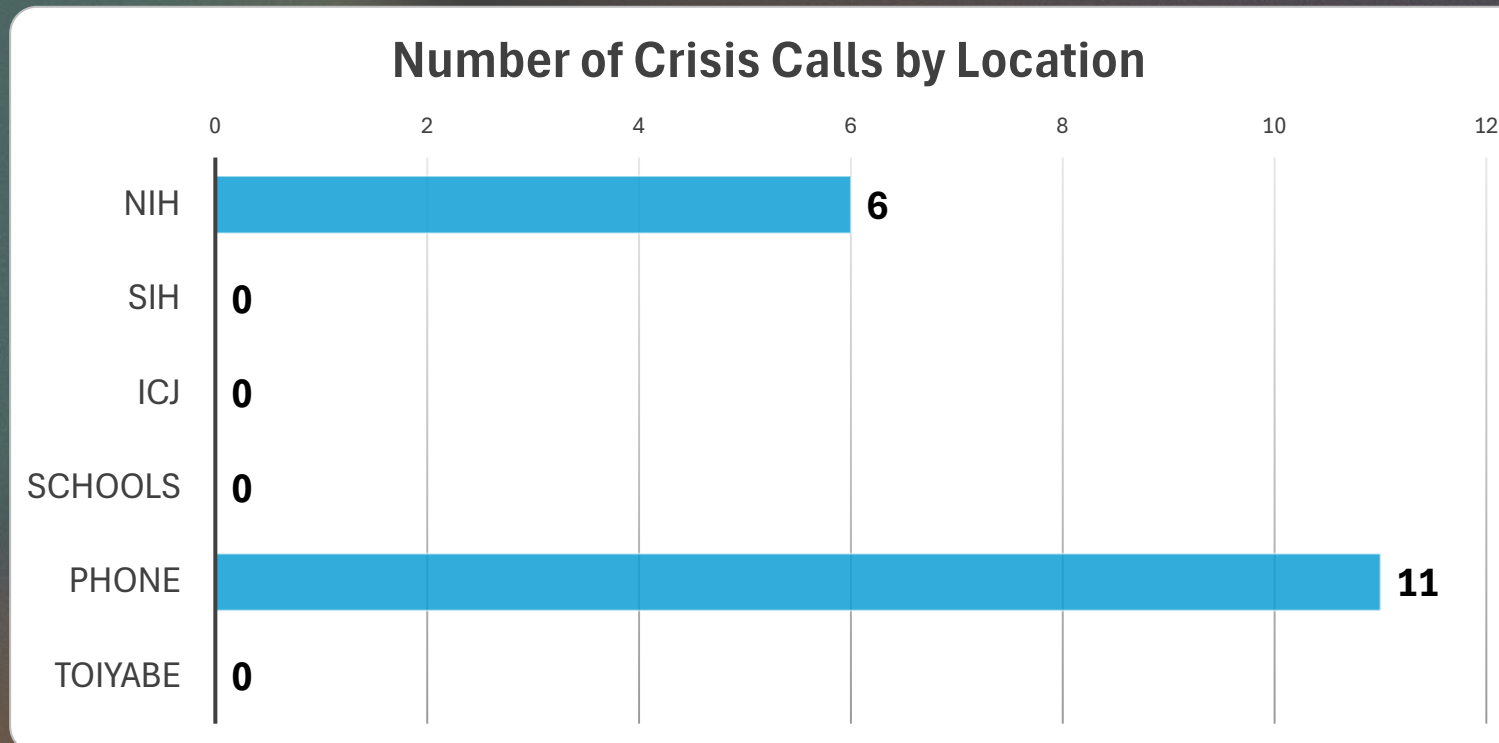


# Crisis Care Mobile Unit (CCMU) & Crisis Calls

### CCMU Responses



### Number of Crisis Calls by Location

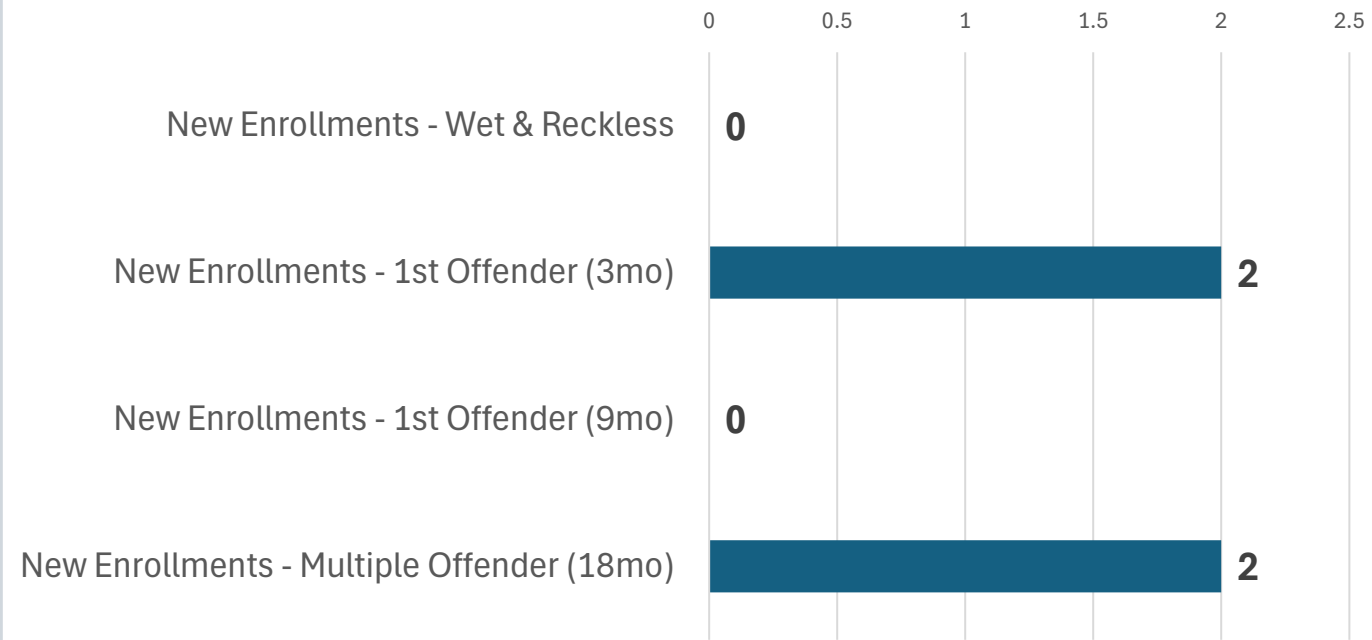


Current Month Totals



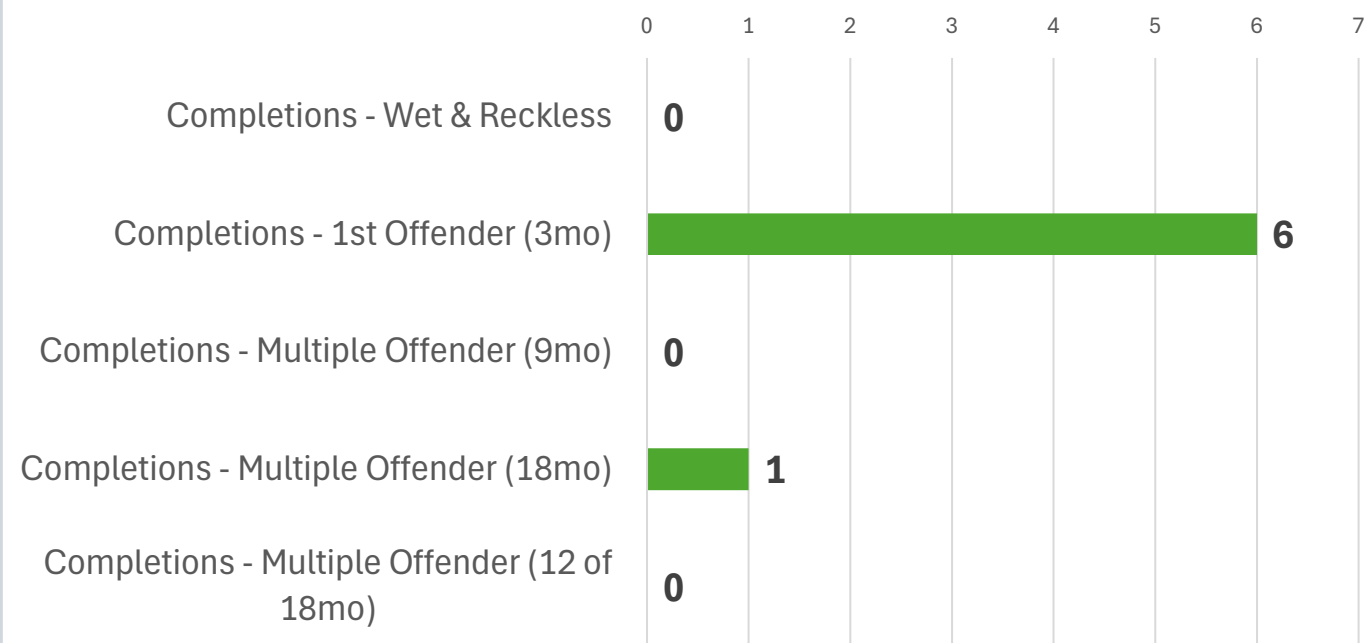
# DUI & SUD

## DUI New Enrollments



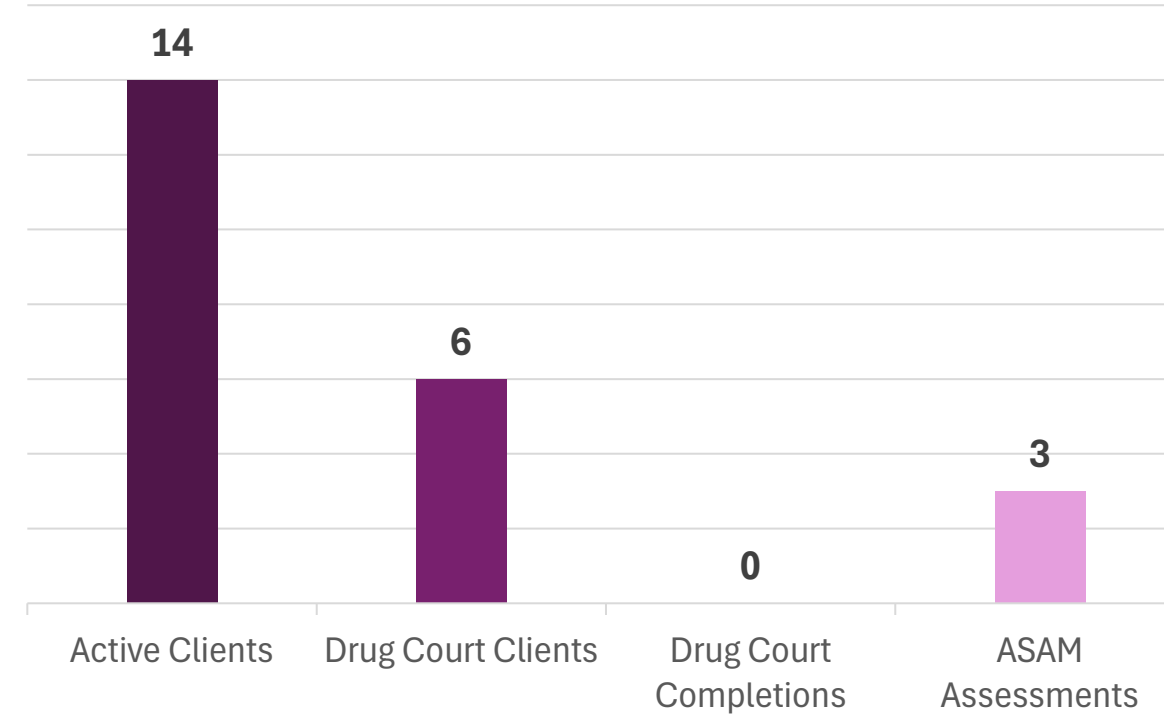
Current Month Totals

## DUI Completions



Current Month Totals

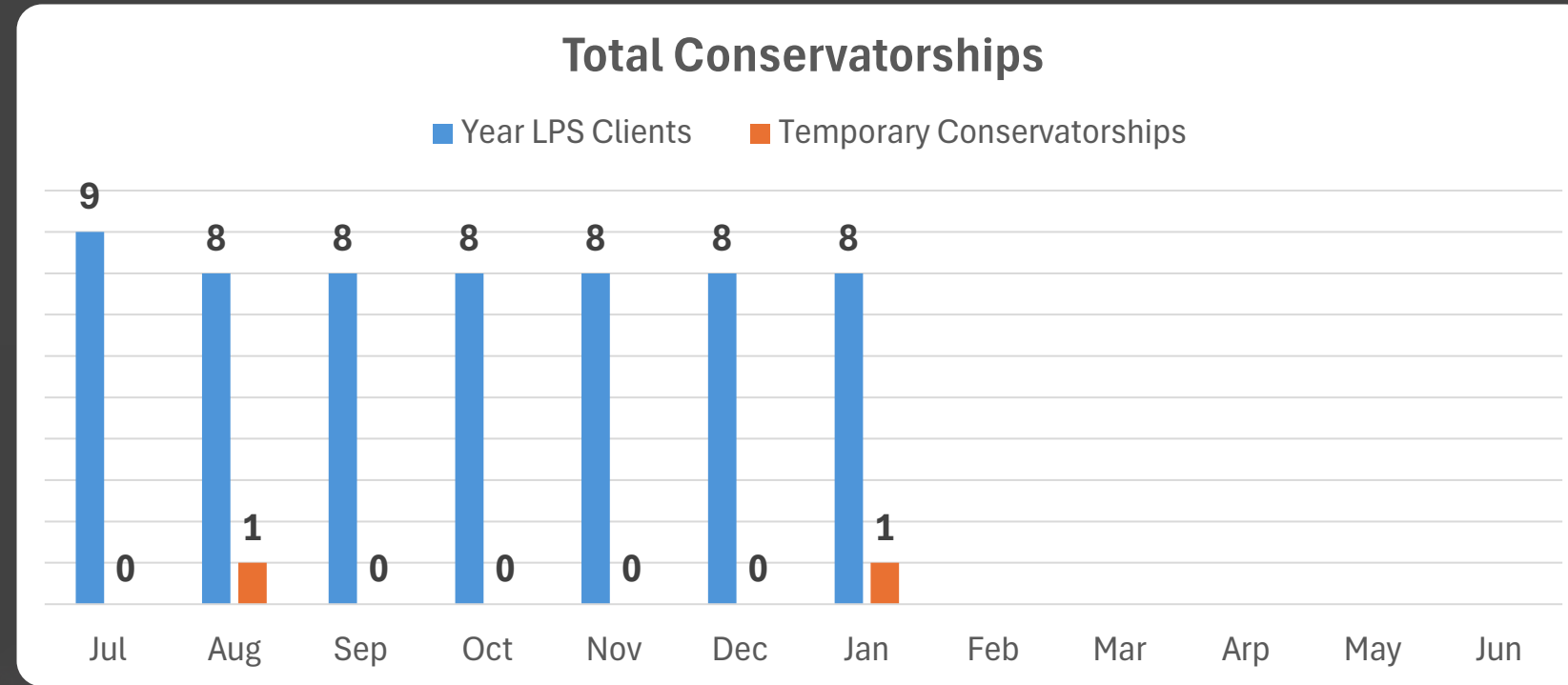
## SUD



Current Month Totals

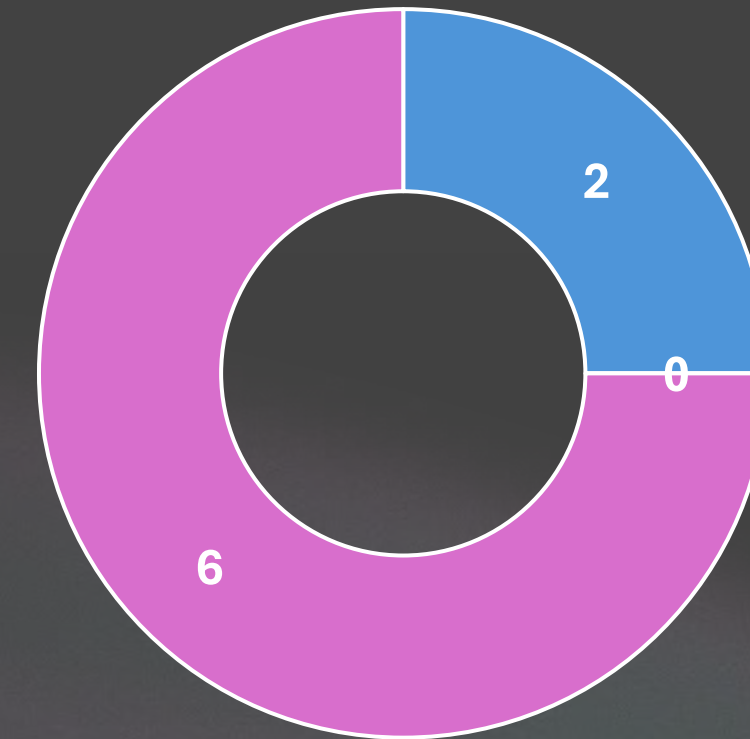


# LPS Conservatorship & Care Court

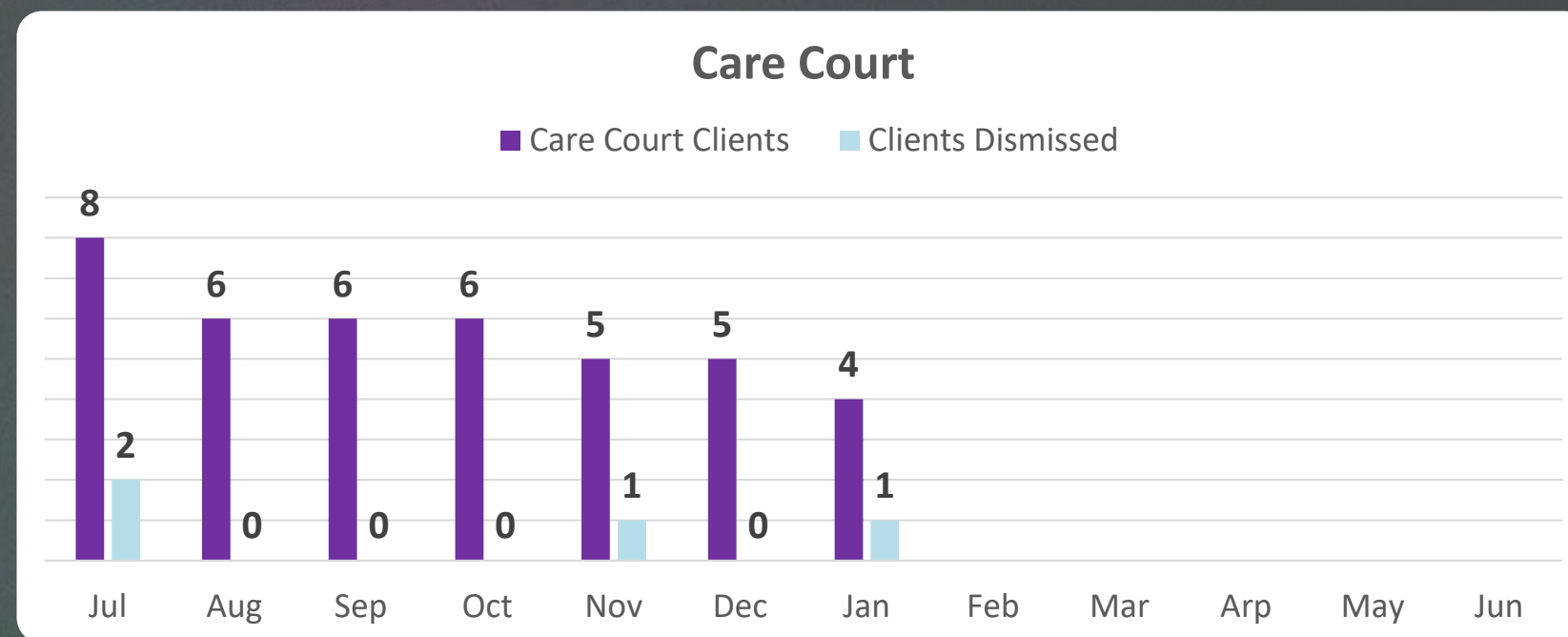


## Client Residence by Location

■ In-County Facility 
 ■ In-County Home 
 ■ Out-of-County Facility



Current Month Totals



#### In-County Facility:

■ Clients placed in a licensed residential or treatment facility located within the county.

#### In-County Home:

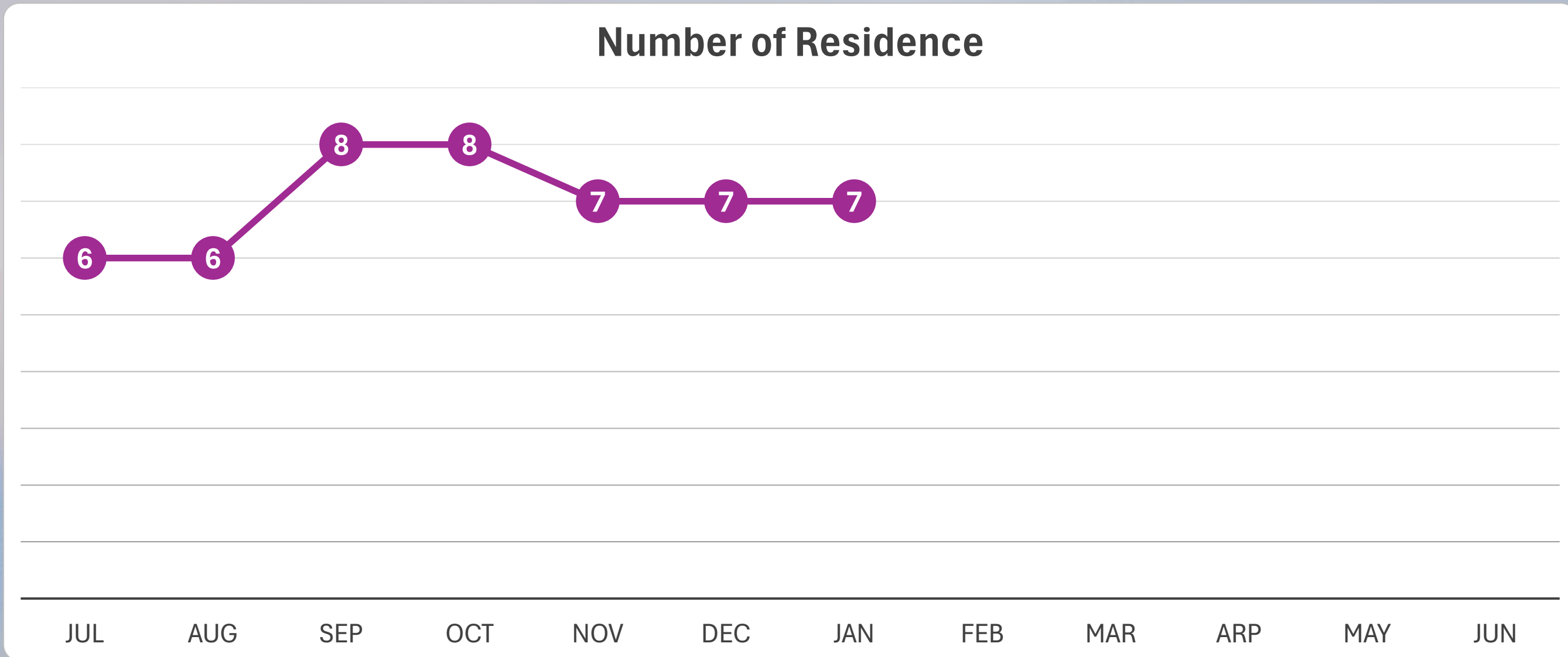
■ Clients residing in a private home setting within the county, receiving services and support in the community.

#### Out-of-County Facility:

■ Clients placed in a licensed residential or treatment facility located outside the county.

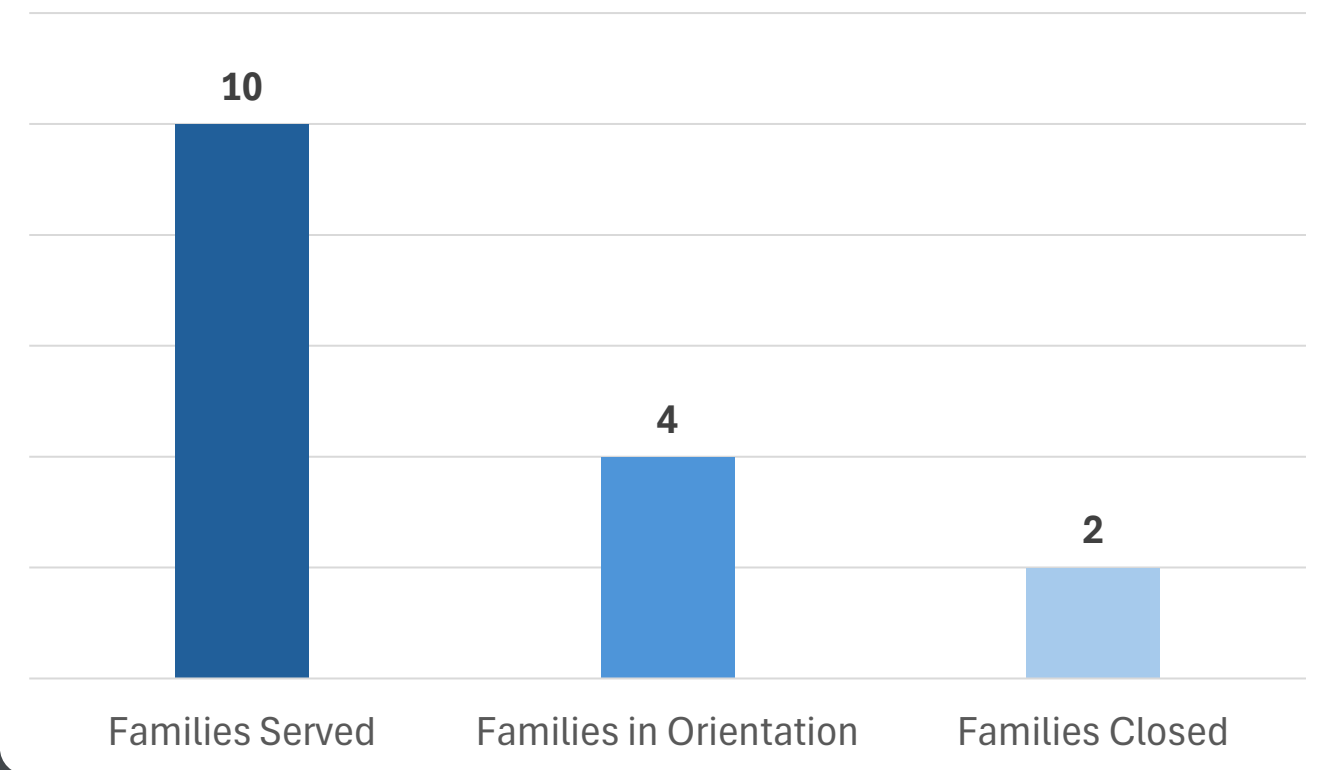
# Progress House

## Number of Residence



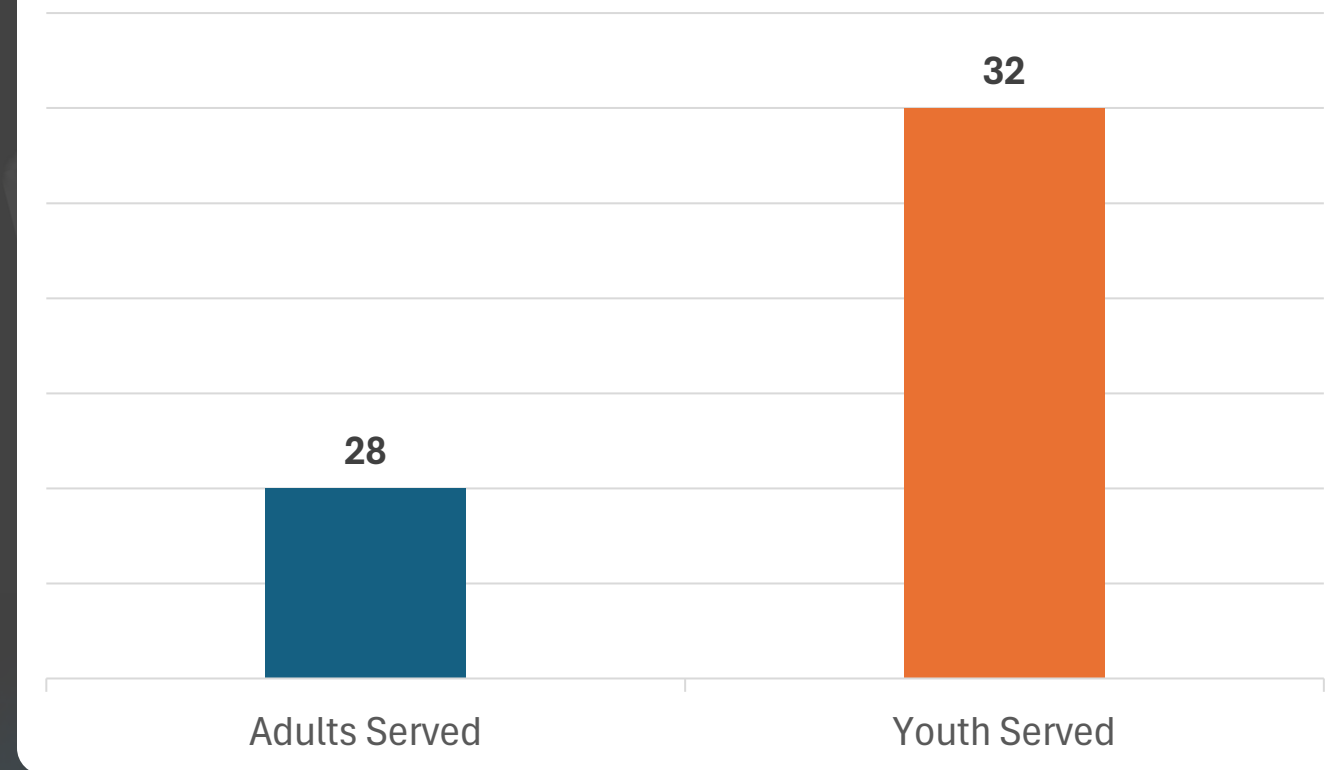
# Family Strengthening Team

## Families Served



Current Month Totals

## Adult/Children Served

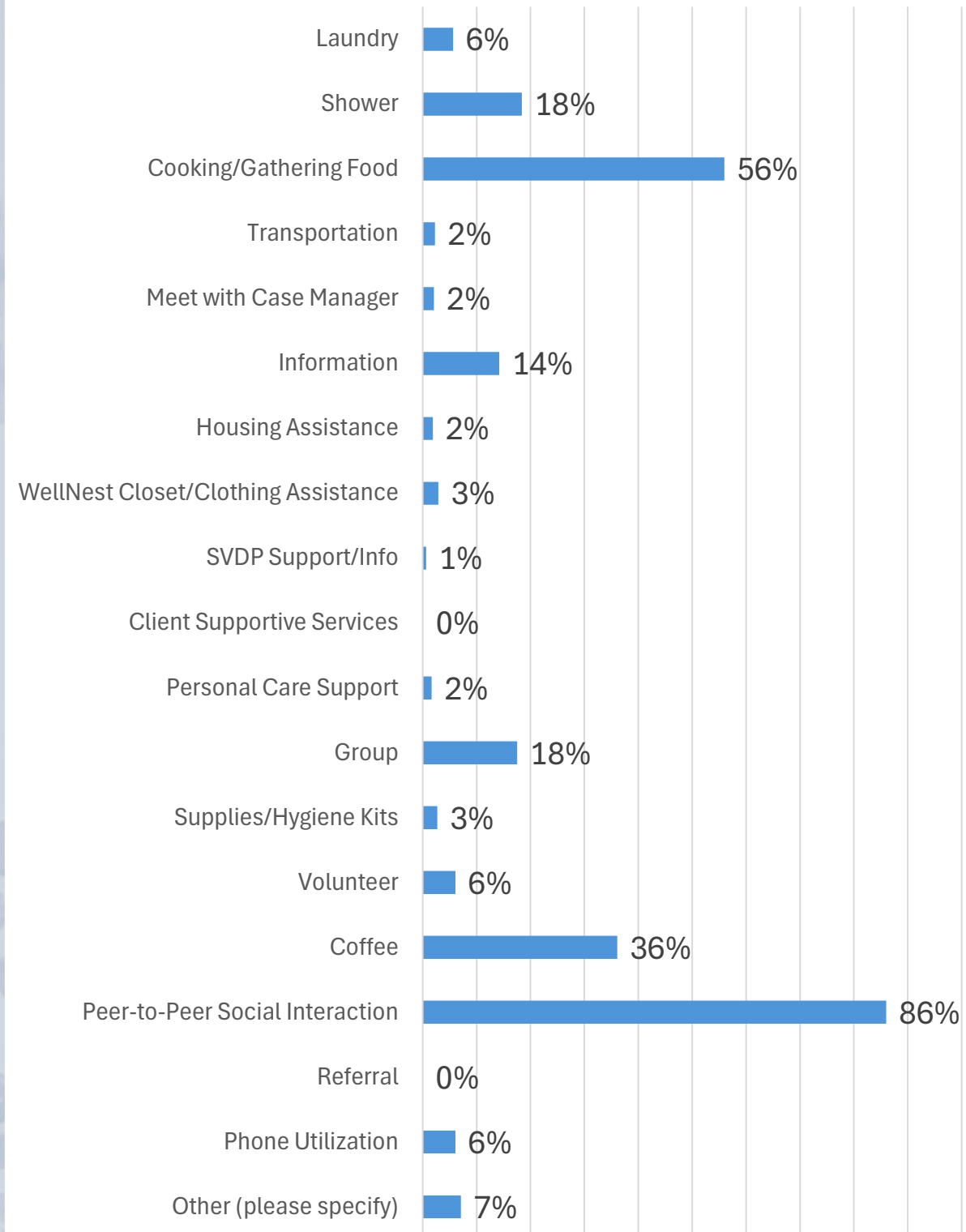


Current Month Totals

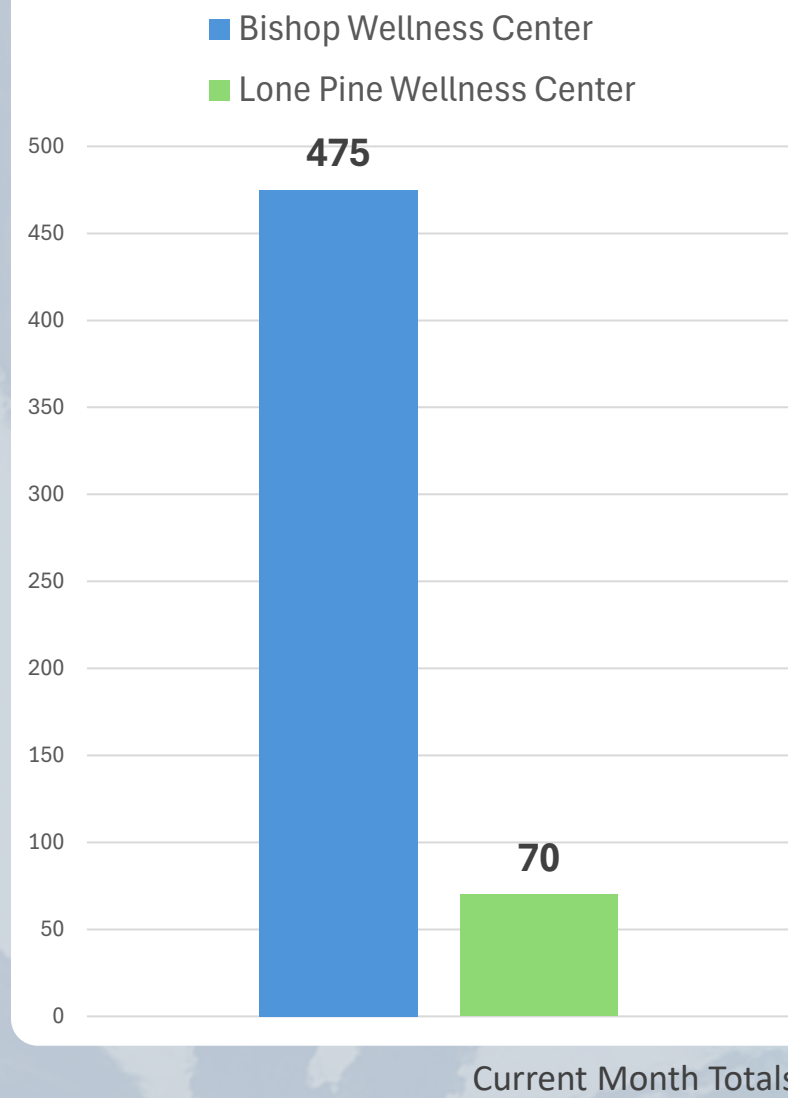


# Wellness Center

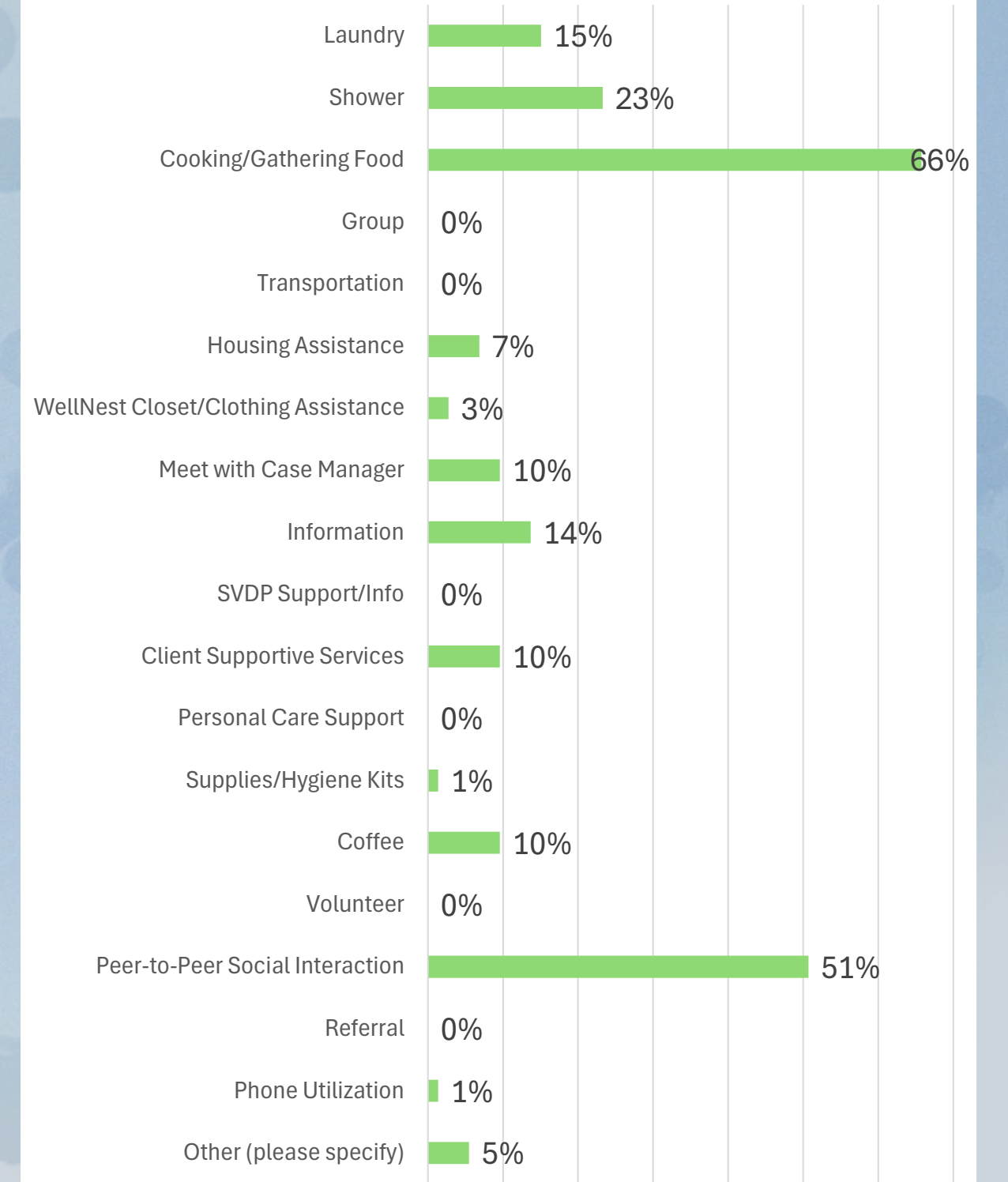
## Bishop Wellness Center - Reason



## Total Interaction



## Lone Pine Wellness Center - Reason



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**Thank**

**You**

