

Center For Behavioral Health Seminole Tribe of Florida

Services for Youth and Children
Commission on Native Children
June 14, 2023 Nashville, TN



Department History

- Social Services – mid 1980's – mid 1990's
- Family Services Department – mid 1990's – 2014
- Center for Behavioral Health (CBH) – 2014 – Present

- CBH was an initiative of the Executive Administrative Office to enhance the mental health services for the Tribal members by requiring licensed staff and moving toward client-centered, best in practice service delivery.
- Part of this included pursuing CARF Accreditation to provide a high level of accountability for service delivery.

Tribal Geography

- We have offices on the primary reservation sites:
 - Hollywood
 - Big Cypress
 - Immokalee
 - Brighton
- We have outreach to “satellite communities”
 - Fort Pierce
 - Tampa/Lakeland
 - Naples
 - Trail – Miccosuckee Reservation

Services

- Out Patient services – counseling, case management, psychiatric, psychological
- Residential treatment for substance abuse, mental health, acute psychiatric and behavioral
- Continuum of Care for those in residential treatment, crisis intervention and aftercare post discharge
- Re-Entry – provide visits to incarcerated members in county jails and state prisons to develop relationships to assist with adjustments and services when they are released
- Children Center for Diagnostics and Therapy (CCDT) – related services for children in schools including speech and language, occupational therapy, behavioral therapy, and physical therapy
- We Do Recover Program – a work program for members returning from residential treatment or incarceration
- Youth Home – for member children placed in foster care who do not have family placements available

Service Delivery Client Statistics

- Presently we have over 500 active cases (Tribal population 4200+)
- We have over 100 active adult psychiatric cases and over 100 active children/youth psychiatric cases
- We have over 100 members involved at some level in Re-Entry
- We have 226 children receiving speech therapy, 85 receiving occupational therapy and 45 receiving behavioral therapy in the CCDT services
- We have 17 children/youth in the Youth Home
- We have 10 members in the We Do Recover Program

Service Delivery Statistics –Since February 2020

2563 Request for Services

- Mental Health – 1351 (Psychological evaluations, Psychiatric, Individual, Family & Grief Counseling)
- Substance Abuse – 396
- Legal Issues – 134 (DUI, Drug Charges and other offenses)
- Domestic Violence – 107
- Behavioral Problems – 107
- School problems – 107
- Support – 213 (emotional, personal problems)
- Weight loss -26
- Family Problems - 136

Clinical Focus

- Client centered, culturally relevant, Trauma Informed care
- Community, Culture and Family – utilizing the strengths in these and Indian Medicine
- Community involvement, buy in
- Integration
 - Health – monthly meetings with pediatricians and key staff (mutual clients)
 - Monthly treatment team meetings with Advocacy and Guardianship
 - Monthly meetings with Seminole Police at all offices regarding high risk clients
 - Monthly meetings with Education Department
- Harm reduction for substance abuse (Medically Approved Treatments)

Challenges

- Residue of COVID -19
 - Increased suicidal ideation
 - Increased anxiety and depression
 - Loss of members during the pandemic
 - Issues with staff hiring (remote options)
 - Trust issues resulting from transgenerational trauma
 - Tribal Per Capita – impact on accessibility of drugs, alcohol, other deviant behaviors
 - The impact of social media on children and youth

Effective Treatments: Children & Youth

- Early intervention – CCDT provides assessments in the preschool program to get services in place. Referrals are made for additional services.
- Early intervention is also crucial with teens. If we can get involved before they get too deep into maladaptive behaviors the better.
- CBT, DBT, Motivational Interviewing are all effective with teens. At times, it will be a dual focus of psycho therapy and psychiatric.
- We have been directing the clinical staff to include family, culture, and involvement in the community in the treatment plan to utilize the inherent power in the family and culture

Resources

- Tribal Council budget
- Grants – Social Services, ICWA
 - Tribal Opioid Response
 - Native Connections
 - Victims of Violence
 - AWARE
- We are very fortunate to have ample financial resources, facilities and programs

Recommendations

- Encourage the development of more Tribal based trainings based on effective programs in Indian Country
- Offer more opportunities for Department Directors from around the country to get together to collaborate
- Increase the efforts to combat the entrance of illegal drugs especially fentanyl into our country

Questions?
