

# Behavioral Health

FEATURED PARTNER: WHATCOM COUNSELING & PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC

## On any given day,

Pioneer Counseling and Treatment programs provide these services at 13 different locations:

- 171 adults receive residential treatment for chemical dependency;
- 21 inmates at the Regional Justice Center participate in chemical dependency counseling programs;
- 21 adults receive inpatient alcohol detoxification treatment services;
- 11 mentally ill adults receive long-term residential chemical dependency treatment;
- 12 children, ages 8-17, benefit from residential counseling services for their sexually aggressive behavior;
- 184 children and their families receive in-home counseling services designed toward family preservation and reconciliation;
- 6 children receive long-term residential treatment for mental illness; and
- 10 at-risk “street kids” are provided crisis intervention and safe haven from prostitution, homelessness and domestic abuse.

ANDREW BYRNE



Pioneer Human Services and Whatcom Counseling & Psychiatric Clinic (WCPC) have enjoyed an extensive working relationship in Whatcom County since 2004, jointly providing clients with housing, residential treatment, and outpatient services.

In November 2004, Pioneer was awarded a contract to operate Whatcom Community Detox. In addition to detoxification services, Pioneer processes involuntary commitment petitions with the court. We also provide assessment and treatment services to intoxicated individuals received at the St. Joseph Hospital’s emergency room, reducing both hospital and jail costs.

During the first two years of our partnership, Pioneer and WCPC worked with the county to develop the Behavioral Health Triage Facility. WCPC also co-located their respite services—mental health care for people in crisis needing help immediately—to the second floor of our building. Then in 2006, Pioneer and WCPC took the step everyone had been waiting for: the two organizations completely merged their operations by moving to one residential center, dramatically increasing our reach and impact.

“Moving Pioneer’s detox and WCPC’s mental health respite care and crisis response services into one facility provided a very necessary service to our community,” says Andrew Byrne, Executive Director of WCPC. The combination of Pioneer’s experienced chemical dependency treatment staff, WCPC’s mental health professionals, and a multitude of outreach workers, allows clients to take advantage of a full array of services in a safe, healthy environment.

In addition to managing the facility, conducting joint training, holding regular meetings, and addressing service overlaps and shortfalls, Pioneer and WCPC staff members work closely together to maintain a high level of client care. “Our partnership is very beneficial to our clients,” says Mr. Byrne. “In one place, they can have their multiple needs addressed without any barriers.”

In 2008, the Whatcom Behavioral Health Triage Facility served more than 800 individuals with chemical dependency, mental illness, or both.

