

BHS History

In the early 1970's, a group of dedicated volunteers recognized the importance of investigating adolescent drug and alcohol use, and the associated factors that negatively affect a healthy family lifestyle. Based on preliminary observations, the volunteers conducted an extensive survey of the level and frequency of drug and alcohol use among high school age youth in the Inglewood, Centinela Valley and Redondo Beach Unified School Districts. The intent was to discover the circumstances affecting such use, and, if a problem existed, to assess where aid and assistance were available to meet the challenge. Indeed, a community need was identified and with a National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Initiation and Development grant, the volunteer contingent transitioned to a professional service organization with a definable mission and structure.

The organization was originally incorporated as the *Centinela Valley Drug Abuse Coalition* on March 13, 1973 and offered outpatient substance abuse counseling in Inglewood, through a State-funded, County-administered contract. By 1974 the modest State-funded outpatient-counseling program was expanded by a National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) – funded program, to meet the growing need for the development of innovative services for drug problems. By this time, BHS was already emerging as a prime player in the drug/alcohol treatment community. The initial outpatient services for drug abuse were supplemented with outpatient services for alcoholics, residential care for drug abuse clients and social model residential care for alcoholics. To reflect the broader range of services offered, the organization was officially renamed, *Behavioral Health Services, Inc.* (BHS) on May 23, 1975.

During the 15 years that followed its inception, BHS was awarded numerous contracts for substance abuse services through the Los Angeles County Drug Abuse Program Office and the Los Angeles County Office of Alcohol Programs (these offices are now combined and known as the Alcohol and Drug Program Administration). By 1986 BHS was operating two licensed, free-standing chemical dependency recovery hospitals (**Tom Redgate Memorial Recovery Center** in Long Beach, and **American Recovery Center** in Pomona), three residential treatment facilities (**Pacifica House** and **The Wayback Inn** in Hawthorne, and **Patterns**, originally in Long Beach and later moved to Hawthorne), four outpatient drug treatment facilities (located in **Inglewood, Gardena, Boyle Heights** and **El Sereno** which later moved to **Lincoln Heights**), and three Community Prevention Recovery Centers (located in **Hollywood, Inglewood** and **Wilmington**). An extensive, comprehensive network was built, upon which services could be further broadened and tailored to meet ever-changing community needs.

With a stable client and services base throughout Los Angeles County, BHS began to augment services to meet the needs of unique populations. Special programs were developed and implemented at various existing BHS treatment sites for persons with first offense drug and driving under the influence (DUI) convictions; for persons who are addicted to heroin and other opiates, including pregnant and postpartum women; for persons who are dually diagnosed with substance abuse and mental health problems; for persons with AIDS and HIV; for prison parolees; for youth and adolescents; for batterers and victims of domestic violence and for Medi-Cal, CalWORKS and General Relief (GR) recipients. Through its involvement in pilot programs, such as the Target Cities project which developed community resource centers to serve as centralized intake units for alcohol and drug services, BHS became one of 8 regional **Community Assessment Service Centers (CASC)** in June 2000, operating screening, assessment and referral services at five of its treatment facilities (Gardena, Wilmington, Long Beach, Boyle Heights and Lincoln Heights).

Having programs within communities allowed key leaders at BHS to identify other emerging needs of those communities. BHS was one of the first community-based service providers to recognize the growing senior citizen population and the lack of services to encourage older adults to “age in place” and live safely and independently at home for as long as possible. Since 1975, BHS has provided information and referral, care management, and in-home supportive services, such as a registry of in-home caregivers, friendly visitor and telephone reassurance services, to local senior citizens through its **South Bay Senior Services** office in Torrance. Funding for these services has been provided through contracts with the Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging, Beach Cities Health District, and the City of Manhattan Beach.

Through their work in the homes of the elderly, staff at South Bay Senior Services identified the serious problem of misuse and abuse of medication and alcohol by this population. Out of this identified community need came the development of the **Medicine Education Program** in 1978 with prevention services funding from the Los Angeles County Alcohol & Drug Program Administration. With its own innovative curricula, training materials and visual

aids, MEP conducts education and training sessions in collaboration with numerous senior service centers and providers throughout the County. In order to provide culturally appropriate prevention services to the *Latino* senior community, the program developed a new project in 2002 called *Promotores de salud para nuestra tercera edad* (Health Promoters for Our Third Age). With funding from ADPA and private foundations, this project trains *Latino* community volunteers in healthy aging, hypertension, diabetes and medication management so that they can provide counseling and health education in these areas to *Latino* seniors in their community.

BHS has focused on improving and enhancing services to grow with changing technology and treatment protocols. Services that were originally based on a social model of recovery have transitioned to a clinical model. All facilities are equipped with up-to-date computers and software to perform clinically based assessments, treatment planning and discharge. With its development of a vision statement which recognizes the need for continuous quality improvement and a task force charged with “implementing the vision”, BHS is on the forefront in Los Angeles County to continually improve the quality of substance abuse and social services.

The success of BHS over the past 35 years has been demonstrated through numerous awards and formal recognition, through continued and sustained funding of services, and its three-year accreditation in July 2000, 2003 and 2006 from CARF, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. But the most significant signs of success are the outcomes of its clients. Today, systems are in place at BHS to measure the clinical outcomes of clients and their satisfaction with services. Clients are involved in their care and recovery all the way from intake through participation in graduation and alumni activities. BHS’s participation in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) Recovery Community Support Program (called **AWARE** in California) from 1998 to 2001 helped empower persons in recovery with a public voice to develop and improve drug abuse services locally and nationally. With its extensive network of service sites and specialized service delivery systems, Behavioral Health Services is distinguished in Los Angeles County as a community-based service provider offering a full range of effective and comprehensive services, from prevention... to treatment and recovery... to maintenance of quality of life and productivity in the community.

1.5.3 Significant Events

1971

- A group of volunteers investigate youth alcohol and drug use problems in Inglewood, Centinela Valley and Redondo Beach.

1972

- The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) awards an initiation and development grant to the volunteer group through the Centinela Valley YMCA.

1973

- The organization is incorporated on March 13, 1973 as the *Centinela Valley Drug Abuse Coalition*.
- The organization offers outpatient counseling in Inglewood, through a State-funded, County-administered contract.

1974

- Funding for outpatient services is expanded through a National Institute on Drug Abuse funded program.

1975

- The organization is officially renamed, *Behavioral Health Services, Inc.* on May 23, 1975 through an amendment of the Articles of Incorporation.
- One hundred slots for outpatient alcohol services are funded at the Gardena and Inglewood treatment centers.
- BHS opens Pacifica House in Gardena as its first residential drug treatment facility.
- BHS contracts with the Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging to provide information and referral, care management and in-home support services to local senior citizens through its South Bay Senior Services program in Torrance.

1978

- BHS responds to the serious problem of misuse and abuse of medication among seniors and develops the Medicine Education Program.
- BHS contracts with the California Department of Aging and the Department of Alcohol & Drug Programs to conduct a statewide training program on Polydrug Abuse Among the Elderly for providers of services to the elderly.

- BHS opens The Wayback Inn, a thirtyfive bed alcohol detoxification facility in Hawthorne, based on a social model treatment modality.

1982

- BHS opens Tom Redgate Memorial Recovery Center to replace alcohol treatment services at Long Beach General Hospital.

1983

- BHS begins operating its first Driving Under the Influence (DUI) programs in Gardena, Wilmington and Hollywood. The Hollywood program closed in 1988.

1984

- Pacifica House moves from Gardena to BHS owned facility in Hawthorne.

1986

- BHS opens American Recovery Center in Pomona, which replaced inpatient drug treatment services at Metropolitan State Hospital.
- BHS begins operation of three County-funded Community Prevention and Recovery Centers (CPRC) in Hollywood, Inglewood and Wilmington.
- BHS provides outpatient services in the East Los Angeles area by opening chemical dependency and family treatment centers in Boyle Heights and El Sereno, serving a primarily Latino population.
- BHS establishes the Patterns program, an alcohol recovery home in Long Beach for women and their children.

1987

- The City of Manhattan Beach contracts with BHS South Bay Senior Services to expand its case management services.

1988

- BHS opens the Beach Cities senior service program, serving seniors in Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach and Hermosa Beach.
- Patterns program moves to Hawthorne.

1989

- BHS opens PC1000 Drug Diversion programs at the outpatient centers in Gardena, Boyle Heights and Lincoln Heights.

1990

- BHS acquires Omni, an outpatient methadone treatment program in Gardena.
- BHS adds outpatient Drug/Medi-Cal services at its Gardena, Boyle Heights and Lincoln Heights centers.

1991

- The El Sereno outpatient facility relocates to Lincoln Heights.
- BHS participates in the Target Cities pilot project at the Boyle Heights and Lincoln Heights facilities.
- Pacifica House becomes a charter member of the Los Angeles County Prison Project Network (PPN) and participates in a pilot project to provide community-based treatment services to prison parolees.

1992

- BHS begins providing substance abuse (detox and rehab) services to people with HIV/AIDS, first at Redgate, then in 1993 at Omni and at American in 1994.
- All BHS treatment facilities begin providing services to dually diagnosed clients through the Substance Abusing Mentally Ill (SAMI) pilot project.

1993

- Hollywood facility was converted from CPRC to Outpatient Drug Free and receives certification to add Drug/Medi-Cal treatment services.

1994

- Batterers' treatment programs become part of BHS outpatient programs.
- Patterns offers services to pregnant heroin addicts on methadone and to female parolees from the California Institute for Women (CIW).

1996

- BHS senior management attend the CARF (the Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission) conference and decide to prepare BHS programs for accreditation.
- A reduction in funding leads to closure of The Wayback Inn.
- Patterns moves to the site formerly occupied by The Wayback Inn.

1997

- BHS participates in planning meetings with the Department of Public Social Services and the Alcohol & Drug Program Administration to develop substance abuse treatment services for CalWORKS participants.

- American Recovery Center and Boyle Heights Recovery Center become Community Resource Centers to provide screening, assessment and referral for CalWORKS and General Relief recipients.
- BHS Hollywood offers rehabilitative day care for dually diagnosed persons.

1998

- BHS residential and outpatient programs begin providing services for the Substance Abuse Services Coordinating Agency (SASCA), which places parolees that have completed an in-prison substance abuse treatment program into community-based services for follow-up treatment.
- A tornado hits American Recovery Center causing significant damage to the residential unit. Through the ingenuity of the staff, clients were relocated within the facility and services continued while the building was restored.
- Outcomes management and client satisfaction systems are implemented at all BHS treatment sites.
- The California Association of Alcohol & Drug Program Executives (CAADPE), of which BHS is a member, is awarded a contract for the Recovery Community Support Program (RCSP) funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). BHS was an active partner in the project.

1999

- American Recovery Center obtains a license to have dependent children of clients stay in the residential facility. The parents and children program accommodates fathers with dependent children as well as mothers.
- BHS is awarded the Pomona Drug Court program by the County of Los Angeles.
- The BHS Board of Directors and staff adopt a new vision statement – *To be dedicated to a Tradition of Caring, strengthened by international accreditation, computer proficiency, the ultimate in staff competence and professionalism, and documented success.*

2000

- The “Implementing the Vision” task force is established, comprised of all levels of staff, to identify and remove barriers to the agency’s fulfillment of its vision.
- BHS is awarded the contract for Community Assessment Service Centers (CASC) in Service Planning Area 8 (SPA8) and also provides CASC services from our Boyle Heights and Hollywood locations as a subcontractor for the SPA4 CASC contractor.
- CAADPE renames the RCSP program, AWARE (Always Working towards Advancing Recovery Environments).
- CARF awards BHS a three-year (2000 – 2003) accreditation as a result of the May site survey.
- BHS begins the Adelante Youth Services Network providing outpatient adolescent substance abuse treatment services at the Lincoln Heights facility and at schools in the local community.

2001

- As a result of the passage of Proposition 36, the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000, by the California voters, BHS begins providing services at its Community Assessment Service Centers and substance abuse treatment programs.

2002

- Because of the demand for Prop 36 services, BHS opened the East Los Angeles Whittier Blvd. site.
- The *Promotores De Salud Para Nuestra Tercera Edad* project starts with funding from the California Endowment.

2003

- The Omni methadone treatment program is closed due to financial concerns.
- BHS earns a second three-year (2003 – 2006) accreditation from CARF.
- BHS contracts with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health to provide Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) services at Hollywood and Lincoln Heights and Adult Outpatient Services at Hollywood.
- BHS begins annual fundraising dinner with a 30th anniversary celebration.

2004

- BHS loses \$1.2 million in revenues due to state and county funding reductions.

2005

- BHS partnered with RAND to conduct NIAAA funded research implementing cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) intervention for clients with depression.
- BHS became a community partner in the UCLA Clinical Scholars Program funded by Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Foundation.
- BHS joined the Health Communities Coalition, a UCLA research project funded by RWJ Foundation to enhance behavioral health services to poor and indigent populations.

- Various members of the AWARE advocacy program expand and incorporate as their own not-for-profit United for Recovery.

- BHS is awarded a grant from the California Wellness Foundation to continue the *Promotores de Salud*.

2006

- BHS adopts new mission, vision and values statements to better reflect the direction of the organization.
- BHS receives funding from Kaiser Permanente to expand *Promotores de Salud* into Inglewood area.
- BHS is awarded its third three-year accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).
- BHS is awarded a contract with United States Probation Office Central District to provide services.
- BHS is awarded contract with County of Orange to provide detoxification services to Proposition 36 clients.

2007

- BHS established collaboration with the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependencies South Bay (NCADD/SB) to provide services under the Department of Children and Family Services Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program.
- BHS President/CEO of 30 years retires. BHS hires new President/CEO in October.
- BHS in collaboration with NCADD/SB develops the Family Dependency Drug Court in SPA 8.

2008

- BHS establishes the BHS Community Development Corporation to focus on increasing housing opportunities.
- BHS participates in collaboration with Shields for Families and California State University Dominguez Hills to establish satellite MSW program.
- BHS expands mental health services to include Field Capable Clinical Services for adolescents in SA 4 and older adults in SA 8.
- In August, BHS assumes administrative oversight of Joint Efforts.

2009

- Effective January 2009 BHS formally affiliates with Joint Efforts, Inc.