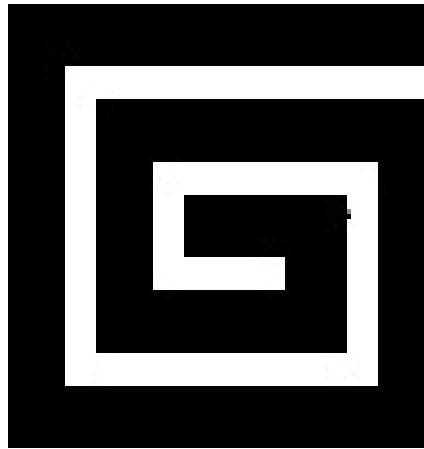


Substance Abuse & Mental Health Ombudsman Program

Ombudsman's Corner

As SAMHOP travels around the state to talk to various people and agencies, staff has become acutely aware that “ombudsman” is not only a really hard word to pronounce but people understandably don’t know what it means! To clear up some of the confusion, let’s talk about what a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Ombudsman does. A Substance Abuse and Mental Health Ombudsman is an advocate and systems navigator. In addition, the Substance



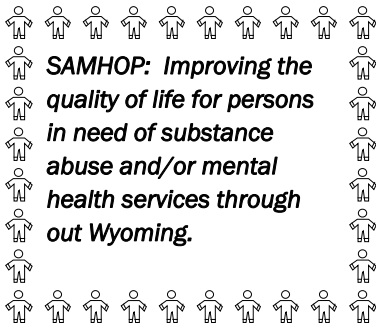
SAMHOP can help people navigate a maze

Abuse and Mental Health Ombudsman specifically helps people (or their friends and family) who have substance abuse or mental health issues. The Ombudsman is a person who advocates on your behalf. If you or someone you know needs assistance in resolving an issue that is related to mental health and/or substance abuse, the Ombudsman could help you. The SAMHOP mission is to improve the quality of life for persons in need of substance abuse and/or mental health services throughout Wyoming.

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Services SAMHOP Offers

Who can use SAMHOP services? Consumers of substance abuse and/or mental health treatment services, family members and friends of consumers, community mental health center staff, case managers, substance abuse treatment programs, other agencies involved in providing care and people interested in learning more about mental health and/or substance abuse.



SAMHOP: Improving the quality of life for persons in need of substance abuse and/or mental health services throughout Wyoming.

Contact SAMHOP staff:

Emily Smith (Main office and full time Ombudsman) 307-632-5519 or 1-888-857-1942

Kenna Hill—
Evanston area 307-214-7717

Dawn Stewart—
Northern Wyoming
307-630-4583



"Sometimes All It takes Is One Voice"



High Country Behavioral Health has offices in Afton, Kemmerer, Pinedale and Evanston. Their Evanston office is located at 75 Yellowcreek Road, Suite 105 and they can be reached at:
Ph. (307) 789-4224.

The clinical director in Evanston is Dr. Nelson, the Executive Director of High Country Behavioral Health is Dr. Steve Corsi.

Services SAMHOP Offers Cont.

How might this program be able to help you or the people you serve? Well, staff can provide information about services available, staff can help with concerns or complaints about services, answer questions about the consumer's rights, help with difficulties accessing substance abuse and/or mental health care

and staff can also work with agencies and organizations to resolve problems, provide information, help with discharge planning, or help with care and treatment concerns. Fortunately, the program serves the entire state of Wyoming and can be reached by calling 1-888-891-6686 or

(307)632-5519 (to reach the main office).

One of the biggest benefits of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Ombudsman Program is that it can be used FREE of charge

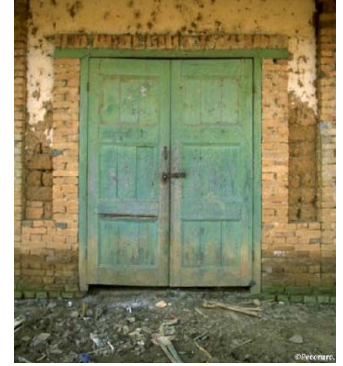
Big Changes Happening for Uinta County

As many of you may already know, this quarter marked some big changes for mental health treatment providers in Uinta County. The state contract to provide mental health services was removed from Pioneer Counseling and subsequently awarded to High Country Behavioral Health. This was, and continues to be, a topic of discussion for consumers and community members in Uinta County. Change, while uncertain and scary, can also provide benefits. An advisory team (made of up of various community members and agencies) was created to discuss and monitor the transition. Currently, both Pioneer Counseling and High County Behavioral Health are providing mental health services to Uinta County residents. One benefit to this is that consumers now have a choice of mental health provider; however a drawback is that it's uncertain how long that will continue to be the case. If you have questions or concerns regarding mental health services in Uinta County or regarding these changes, please feel free to call the SAMHOP office at anytime. High Country Behavioral Health also welcomes your questions or concerns.

Community Outreach an Essential Tool

Community outreach is an essential tool for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Ombudsman Program. Since our last newsletter, Ombudsman Emily Smith and staff Kenna Hill and Dawn Stewart extended outreach efforts to organizations, agencies, community groups, advisory committees, and many other places. Other events included participation and presentation at the

MEGA Conference, the Grace For Two Brothers “Walk of Grace”, and another WYSHIIP conference. The Ombudsmen also spoke to staff at Yellowstone Behavioral Health Center, Northern Wyoming Behavioral Health Center, High Country Behavioral Health Center and Platte County Home Health Services. “Making sure that the community is aware of this program, and the assistance available, is



SAMHOP, opening doors to mental health and substance abuse treatment

a high priority,” Emily Smith says.

If you would like the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Ombudsman to attend your community group meeting or speak at your event, call (307) 632-5519 for scheduling

The Wyoming Department of Health, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division has revised and re-issued the booklet “Navigating Wyoming’s Mental Health Emergency Detention Process: Information for You and Your Family”. This booklet contains valuable information regarding the Emergency Detention (Title 25) Process in Wyoming. To obtain a copy of this booklet, you may contact The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Ombudsman Program, or you may contact the Wyoming Department of Health Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division, Janet Jares, at (307)777-6494 or 1-800-535-4006.

Our Staff

This quarter, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Ombudsman Program was lucky enough to be able to add Dawn Stewart as a contract ombudsman to the team. Dawn will be working in the Northern part of Wyoming for areas such as Sheridan, Cody, Buffalo and Gillette (and all those little towns in between!) Dawn’s extensive background as a masters level social worker in the mental health and substance abuse fields makes her a very valuable asset to the program. Another invaluable team member whom we have had for quite some time is Kenna Hill, our contract ombudsman for the Evanston area. Kenna’s longstanding professional role in the Evanston community makes her a great “go to” ombudsman, while her extensive knowledge about the Wyoming State Hospital and mental health treatment make her another valuable asset to the team.

Prefer Email?
Email us at:

Guardian.ombuds@gmail.com Emily Smith & Main Office email

Samhop.evanston@gmail.com Kenna Hill—Evanston area

Northernwy.ombuds@gmail.com Dawn Stewart—Northern

Wyoming

WYOMING
GUARDIANSHIP
CORPORATION

SAMHOP
P.O. Box 2778
Cheyenne, WY 82003

Phone: 307.632.5519
or 888.857.1942
E-mail:
guardian.ombuds@gmail.com

This data includes all individuals for whom a formal intake was done. Some cases are still open. Data totals may not be equal because in many cases, individuals fell into more than one category.

Person served by age	July - Sept	Oct - Dec
Under 18	1	6
18 - 24	12	3
25 - 44	13	10
45 - 64	20	11
65 and over	10	3
Not reported/unknown	28	52

Persons Served By County	July - Sept	Oct - Dec
Albany	5	3
Big Horn	0	0
Campbell	6	0
Carbon	6	1
Converse	0	0
Crook	2	0
Fremont	4	3
Goshen	2	1
Hot Springs	1	3
Johnson	0	0
Laramie	26	21
Lincoln	0	2
Natrona	7	11
Niobrara	0	0
Park	2	1
Platte	1	0
Sheridan	3	7
Sublette	0	0
Sweetwater	1	1
Teton	0	2
Uinta	16	24
Washakie	0	1
Weston	0	0
Out of State/Unknown	2	5
TOTALS	84	86

We're on the web!
www.wyomingguardianship.org

Special Populations	July - Sept	Oct - Dec
Serious Mental Illness	60	55
Other Mental Health issue	9	6
Substance Abuse	17	22
Traumatic Brain Injury	5	1

Persons served by race or ethnicity	July - Sept	Oct - Dec
American Indian/Alaska Native	4	4
Asian	0	0
Black/African American	3	3
Caucasian	49	35
Spanish/Hispanic/Latino	3	6
Other	3	1
Unknown/Not reported	22	37
TOTALS	84	86

Top 4 reasons for calling	July - Sept	Oct - Dec
Access to Mental Health/SA services	15	24
Care or treatment Issues	20	24
Locating appropriate placement	13	21
Guardianship/conservator	14	18

