

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Rebekah Miller
Development Coordinator
Peninsula Behavioral Health
Tel: 360-457-0431 x159
Email: rebekahm@peninsulabehavioral.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTACHED PHOTO: Poetic Justice Theatre Ensemble (clockwise from back left) Marc Weinblatt, founder, Rosie Wilcox, Karma Tenzing Wangchuk, Bethany Colden, Leif Hansen. Musician (not in photo) - Artis the Spoonman. Photo by Rebekah Miller

Peninsula Behavioral Health Hosts Mandala Center for Change

Peninsula Behavioral Health's Horizon Center, a day treatment and drop-in center open to all adults in the community with mental illness, had special guests this week. More than 20 clients were treated to an interactive theatre experience by the acting troupe from Port Townsend.

Now in its 11th season, Port Townsend's Poetic Justice Theatre Ensemble is a multi-ethnic, multi-generational troupe of local actor/activists who use interactive theatre as a tool for awareness and social change. These techniques are used all over the world for conflict resolution, community-building, therapy, and social activism.

This was the second time that PBH hired the Mandala Center at Birgit Talman's - a case manager - suggestion. Typically, the Horizon Center is open five days per week, and folks can drop in to use the computer, take a shower, socialize with other clients or meet with a counselor. At 4:00 pm everyone gathers for a meeting to organize and prepare that evening's dinner provided by PBH. But having the troupe as guests created a special atmosphere for some of the area's most disadvantaged residents.

After the performance, a client mentioned how much he likes being at the Horizon Center because it's a place to come for dinner and the price is right: just a couple of chores. Having the troupe here was a real bonus!

For more information about the Mandala Center for Change, please contact its founder, Marc Weinblatt at 360-344-3435 or www.mandalaforchange.com

PBH has been Clallam County's primary resource for mental health services for 42 years, and the current client base is approximately 3,400 men, women, and children. For more information, please contact Rebekah Miller, Development Coordinator at 360-457-0431 or www.peninsulabehavioral.org

