



COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Agenda

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

This meeting will be conducted in person and electronically (via Zoom) at

County Hall
12 Court Street
Keene, NH 03431

Zoom Call-in Number: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 409 748 8803

Pin #: 603123

Start Time 08:30 AM

Present: Commissioners Jack Wozmak, Terry Clark, and Robert Englund.

Absent:

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, HR Director May, Treatment Court and Behavioral Health Court Coordinator/Project Director Welsh, and Director of Executive Services/Communications Bernstein

Guest(s):

Public Comments

Upon recognition from the Chair, a Public Comment on topics of interest may be made.

I. Elected Officials & Department Head Updates

To receive, as informational, departmental updates requiring Commissioner review, participation, approval, and impactful departmental and operational issues.

II. Scheduled Items

Master Agenda Item #1195: Behavioral Health Court Semi-Annual Report - A. Welsh
Action Expected: To receive an as informational as possible report on the last six months of operations by Coordinator/Project Director Welsh.

1. Coordinator/Project Director Welsh gave the following presentation:

Cheshire County Behavioral Health Court Programs Semi- Annual Review



Alison S. Welsh

August 18, 2024



Changes in Programming

Mental Health Court statewide guidelines have been edited by the MH Coordinators and are waiting for final approval.

Coordinator continues to attend the monthly state Mental Health Court meetings

Hired new clinical case manager, Emily LaClair, who started April 22, 2024

State received mental health court grant to begin assessing and reviewing all programs along with hiring a mental health court coordinator. They also plan to purchase a statewide database for MH Court. RFP to be released shortly.

Jeff Powell from Dublin continues to bikes to BHC clients. Jeff runs Bikes for Peace

The state has hired a new Mental Health Coordinator Tanya Pittman

Incentive Based Programming

As we move forward with revisions to the Behavioral Health Court programs, we have implemented incentives and sanctions to modify behavior:

- ▶ We continue to offer \$5 gift cards for clients who attending all of their UAs for a two-week period
- ▶ We see continued increase in attendance and enhanced motivation
- ▶ To encourage compliance we began awarding \$20 gift cards along with certificates upon graduation/completion of the program
- ▶ We have been using a 500 slip fishbowl following the contingency management program to enhance incentives

- ▶ We created a UA policy sheet that listed incentives and sanctions to motivate attendance

- ▶ Sanction examples include: essays, double colors, daily UAs, check-ins with the Judge and more frequent court appearance

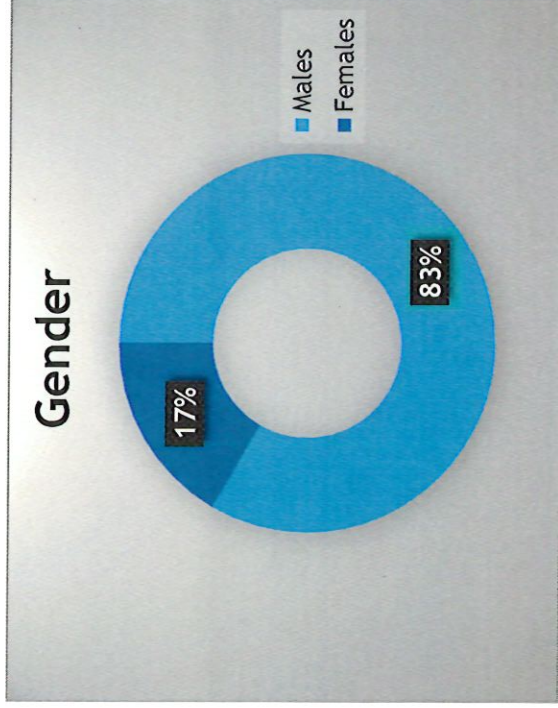
- ▶ Retention rates have improved

- ▶ We continue to provide phones and phone cards to ensure clients remember their appointments

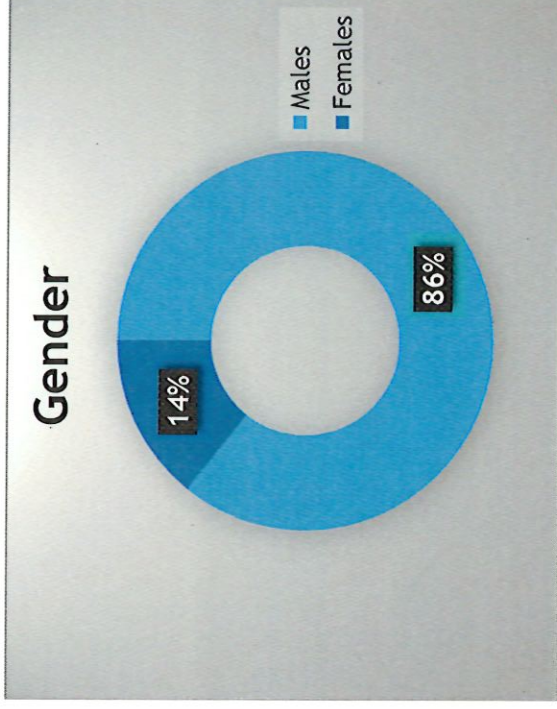
- ▶ We have provided gift cards for basic necessities funded by the Friends

Behavioral Health Court Demographics: Gender

BHC Population 2024

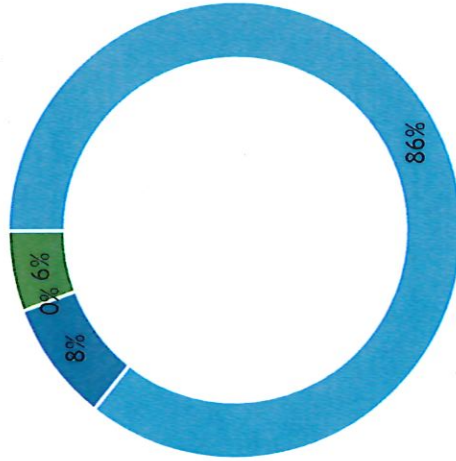


BHC Population 2023



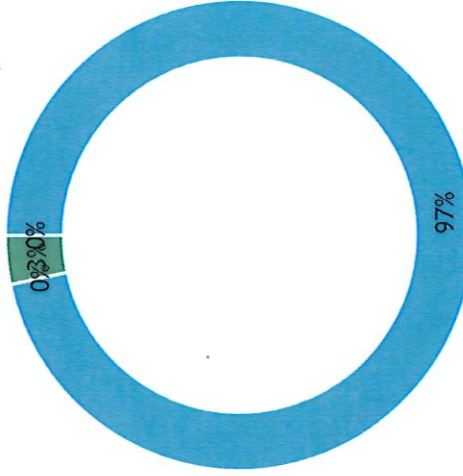
Behavioral Health Court Demographics: Race

BHC Clients 2023



White Hispanic Asian Indigenous Black

BHC Clients 2024

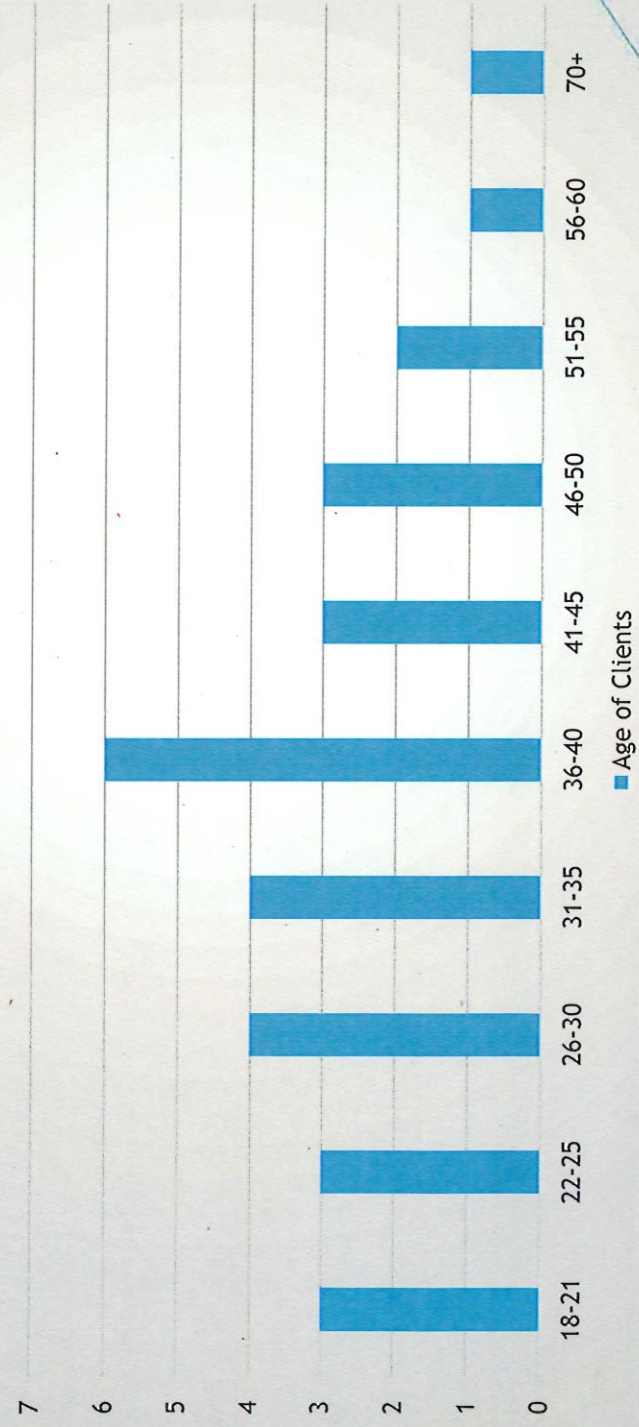


White Hispanic Asian Indigenous Black

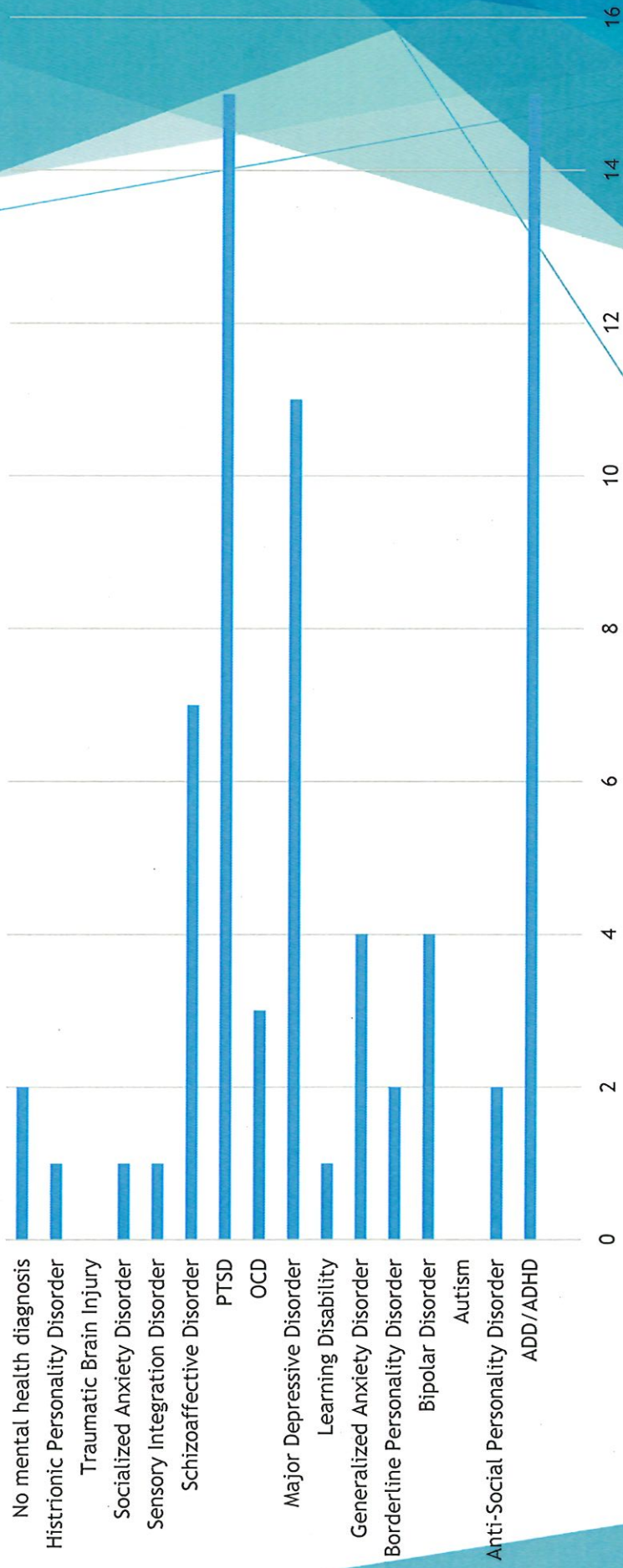
Takeaways:

- Cheshire County Behavioral Health Court Programs continue to accept those of all genders and ethnicity
- Cheshire County Behavioral Health Court Program census was low due to having only one clinical case manager for most of the year, but those numbers are already starting to increase with the addition of a new clinical case manager.

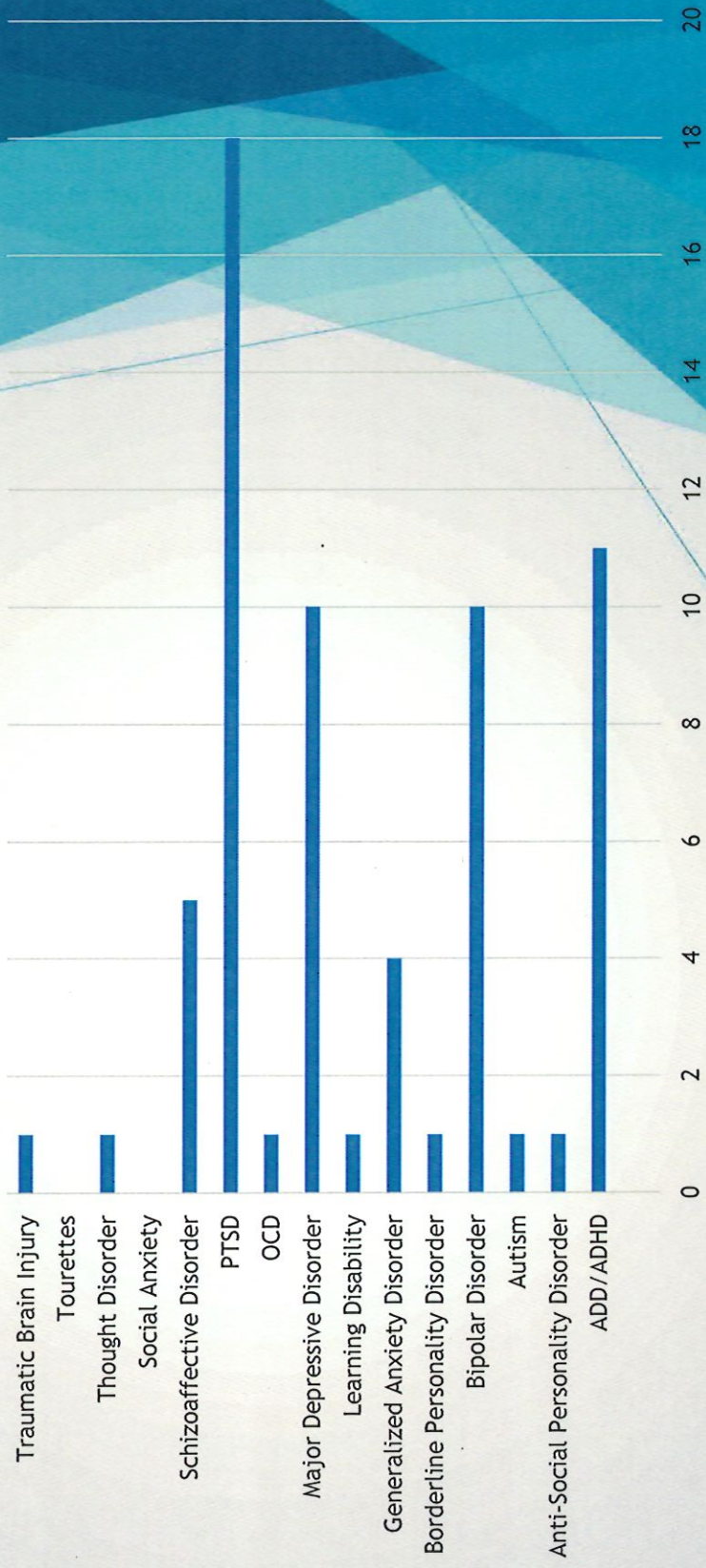
Age Demographics of BHC Programs January- April, 2024



Mental Health Diagnoses 2024

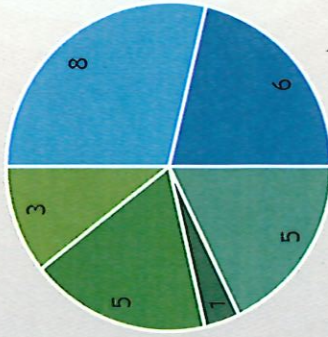


Mental Health Diagnoses 2023



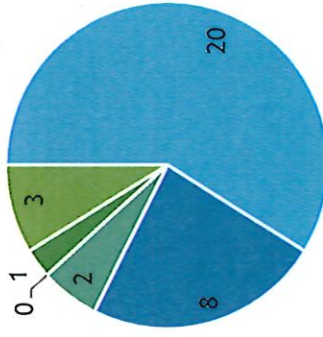
PRIMARY DRUG OF CHOICE FOR BHC CLIENTS

Clients in 2024



- Alcohol
- Marijuana
- Heroin/Fentanyl
- Powder Cocaine
- Crack Cocaine
- Methamphetamine

Clients in 2023



- Alcohol
- Marijuana
- Heroin/Fentanyl
- Powder Cocaine
- Crack Cocaine
- Methamphetamine

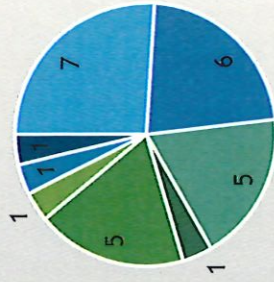
Clients in 2022



- Alcohol
- Marijuana
- Heroin/Fentanyl
- Powder Cocaine
- Crack Cocaine
- Methamphetamine

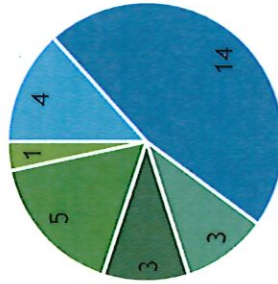
SECONDARY DRUG OF CHOICE FOR BHC CLIENTS

Clients in 2024



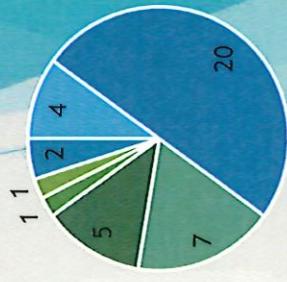
- Alcohol
- Marijuana
- Heroin/Fentanyl
- Powder Cocaine
- Crack cocaine
- Inhalant
- Methamphetamine
- Benzodiazepines

Clients in 2023



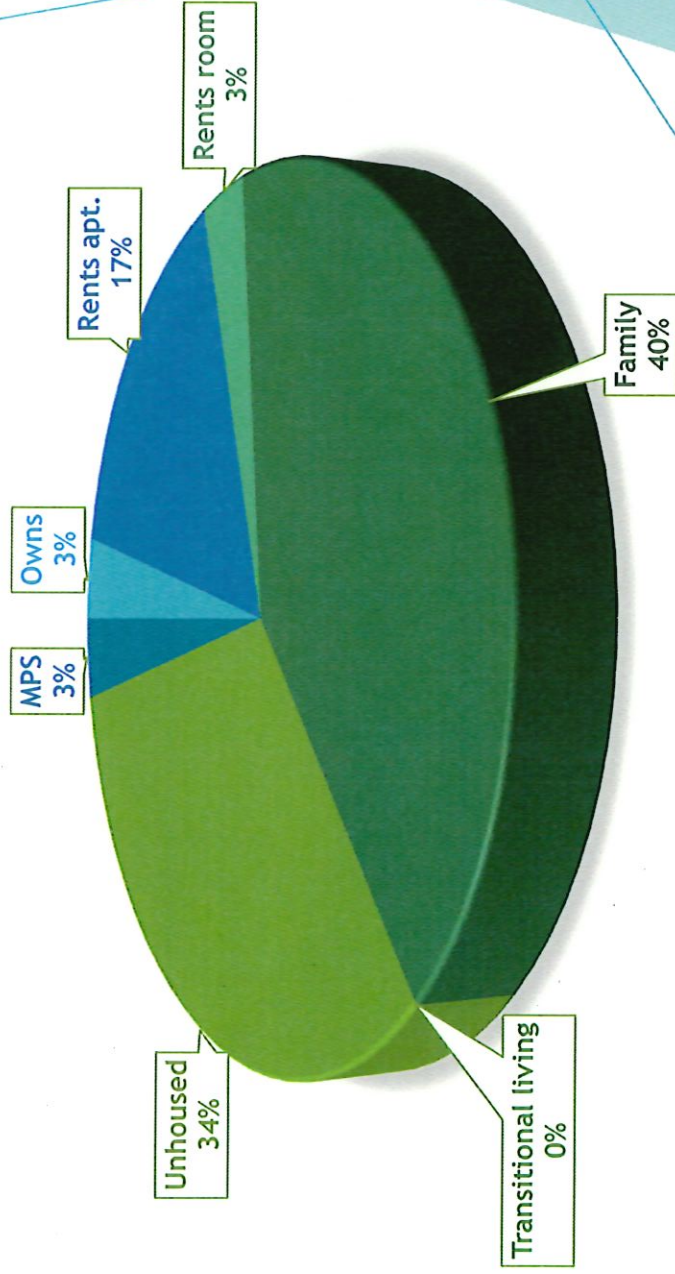
- Alcohol
- Marijuana
- Heroin/Fentanyl
- Powder Cocaine
- Crack cocaine
- Synthetics

Clients in 2022



- Alcohol
- Marijuana
- Heroin/Fentanyl
- Powder Cocaine
- Crack Cocaine
- Benzodiazepines
- Synthetics

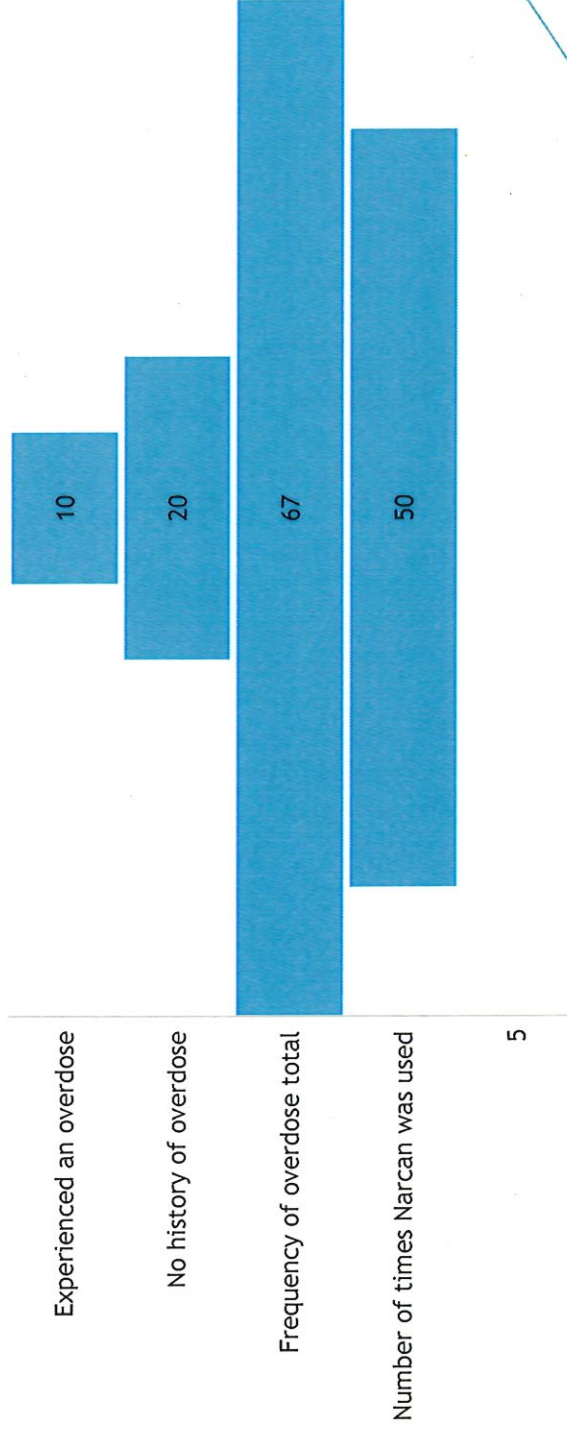
Housing Status at Intake 2024



Housing Referrals for 2024

Southwestern Community Services	Transitional Living	Emerald House	SHELTER	Tent	Respite	Community Supervision	Other	MPS
4	1	1	5	1	2	1	3	2

Overdose History BHC 2024



5

BHC works collaboratively with local agencies making referrals for residential treatment.

- ❖ Live Free
- ❖ Turning Point
- ❖ Antrim House
- ❖ Bonfire
- ❖ Avenues
- ❖ Granite House
- ❖ Process Recovery
- ❖ Farnum
- ❖ Keystone
- ❖ Gate House

Those highlighted in blue are referrals made in 2024

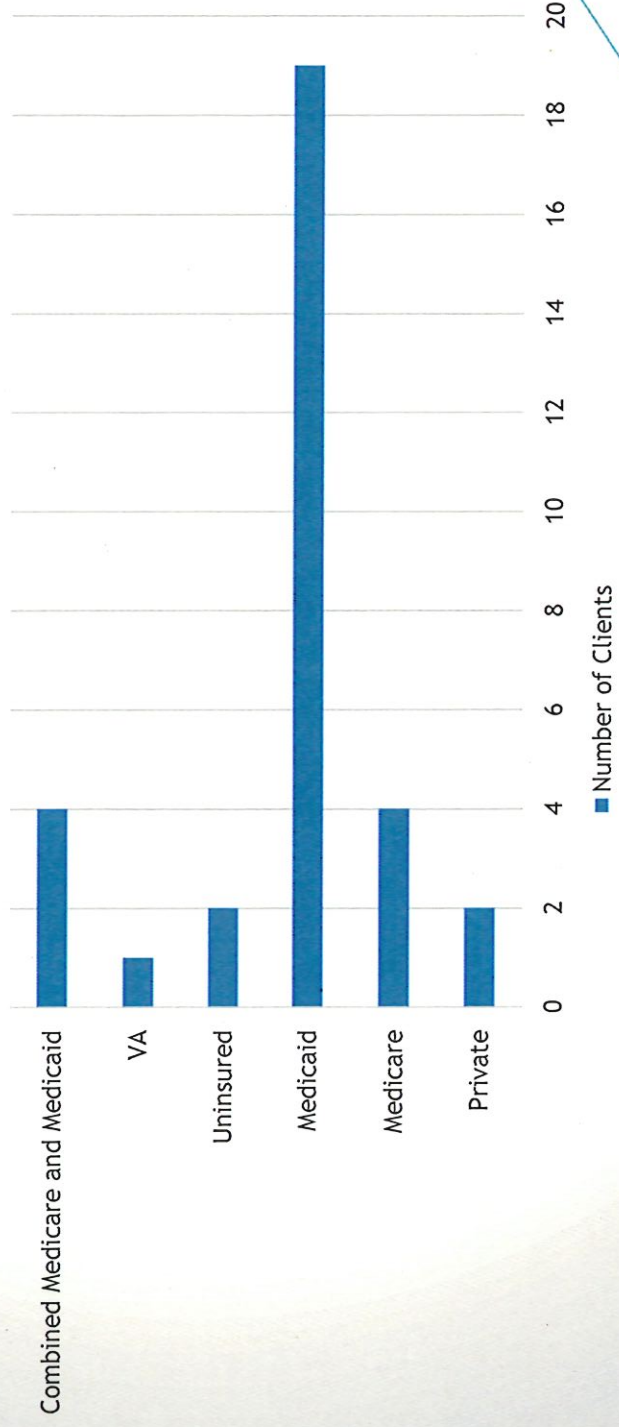
Agency Referrals for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) 2024

- ▶ The Doorway- 2
- ▶ CIA- Community Improvement Associates-2
- ▶ Better Life Partners- 2
- ▶ Groups Recover Together-1
- ▶ Monadnock Family Services (MFS)-2
- ▶ ANEW- 1
- ▶ Several other referrals to private doctors and other psychiatric centers not listed

Community Referrals to Outside Provider Services

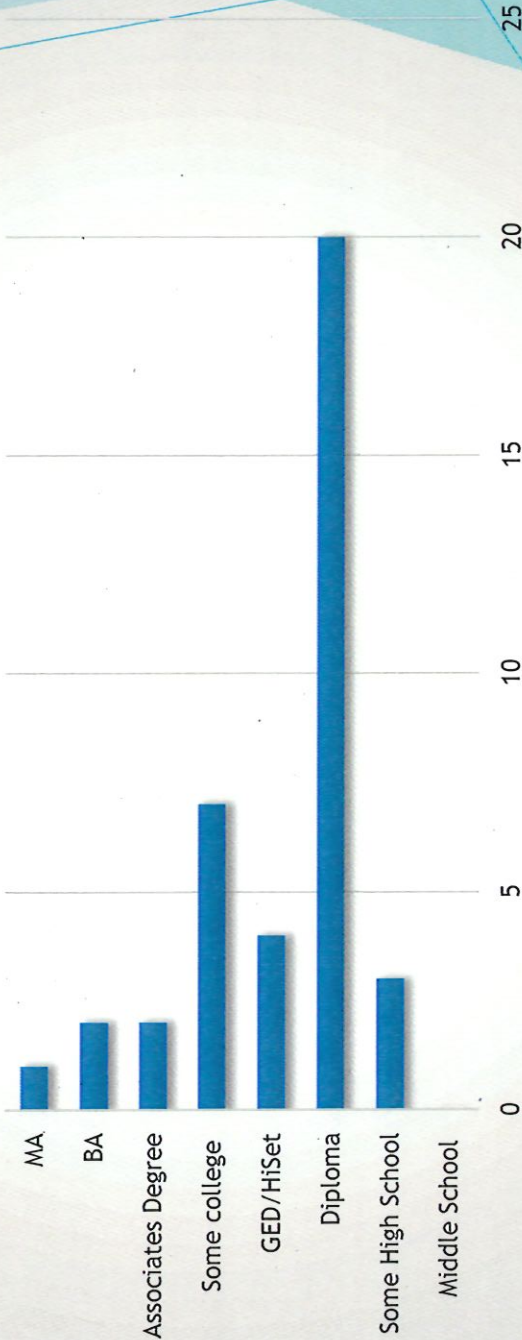
- Monadnock Family Services
- Monadnock Behavioral Health
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Educational Services/HiSet/tutoring/Keene Continuing Education
- Service Link
- Keene Serenity Center
- IDCMP Program
- Reality Check
- Monadnock Peer Support
- Maps Counseling
- The Doorway
- Community Improvement Associates
- DV Counseling/Anger Management
- SOS Recovery Center
- Many additional Individual community Providers

Types of Insurance 2024



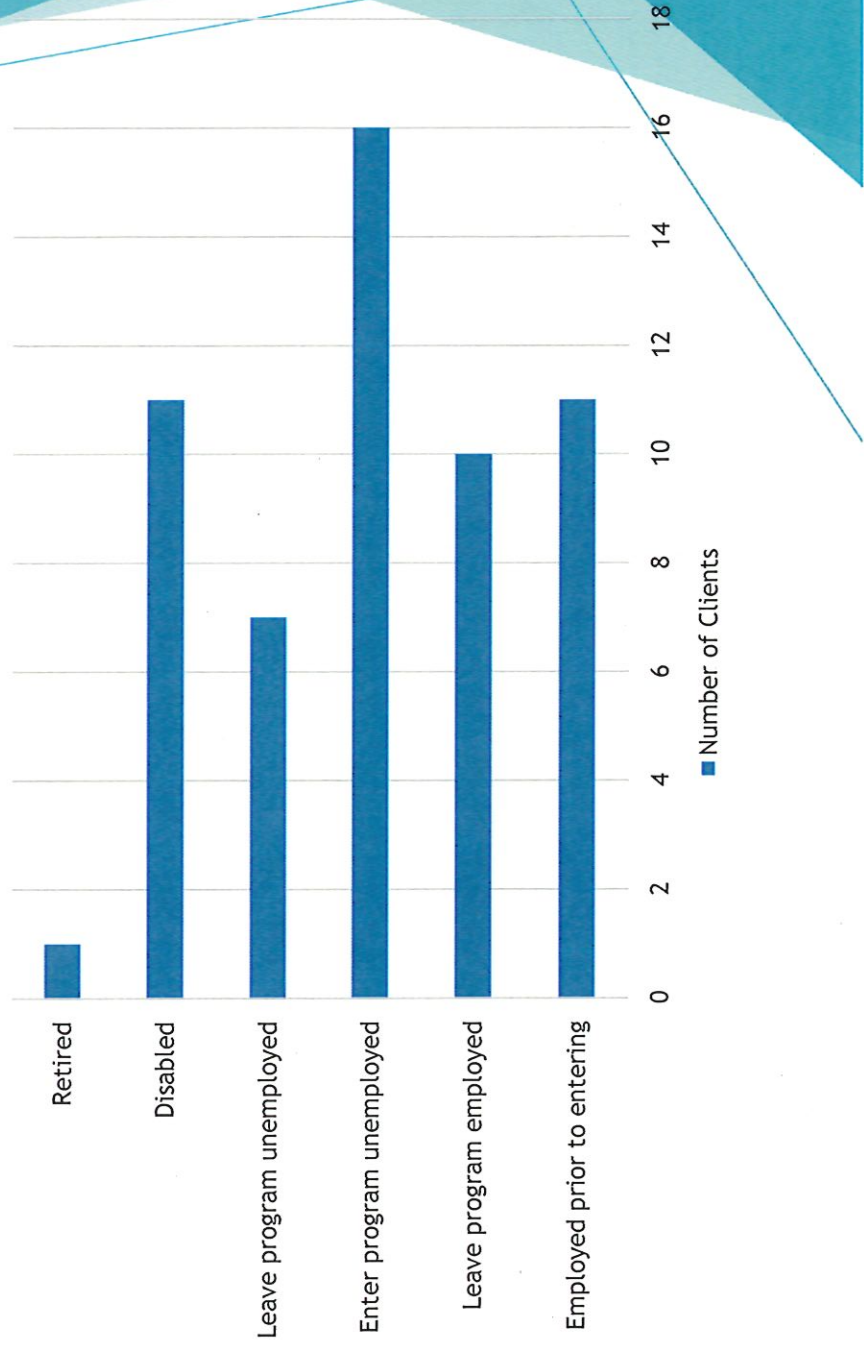
EDUCATION LEVEL OF BHC CLIENTS

Level of Schooling*



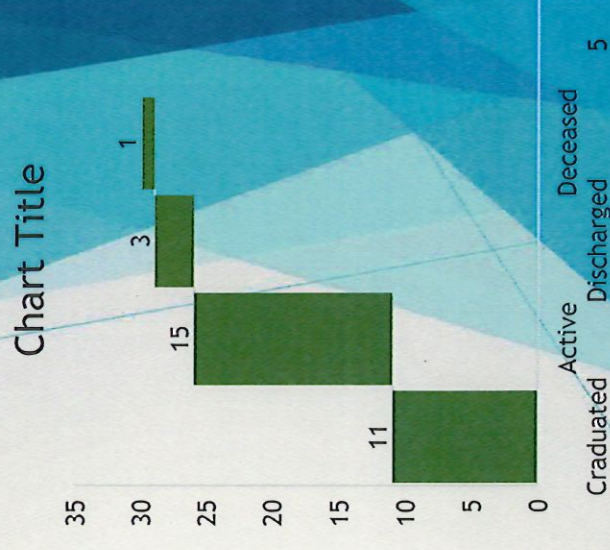
*Some participants are counted more than once as they reached higher levels of schooling.

Tracking Employment



Graduations/ Completions vs Terminations/ Discharge since January 1, 2024

- ▶ We have had a total of 30 clients since the beginning of the year
- ▶ 23 in the Mental Health Court Program
- ▶ 7 in the Alternative Sentencing Program
- ▶ 14 clients were carried over from previous years
- ▶ 15 clients, are currently active in the program
- ▶ 11 clients, 37% have successfully completed the program
- ▶ 3 clients, 10% have been discharged
- ▶ 1 client, 3% past while in the program



Updated 8.18.24

Takeaways for 2024



Judy Gallagher received the County Employee of the Year award on October 23rd!

Alison is part of the Trauma Responsive Monadnock Education Committee. This group aspires to create a trauma informed community.

We successfully hired a new clinical case manager Emily LaClair who started on April 22nd!



The Friends of Cheshire County Recovery Courts continue to provide incentives and other supports to both programs. Along with providing Hannaforrd gift cards for basic necessities.

We continue to monitor, assess and improve the program now that we are tracking reliable data.

BHC has seen an increase in "incompetent" clients, meaning clients that are unable to stand trial.

Cost to incarcerate someone for one year:
\$68, 985 or \$189 per diem. Cost of BHC programs 2021 \$3,725 or \$10.20 per diem; BHC 2022 annual cost \$2,820 or \$7.73, however we were short staffed part of the year. In 2023 the cost to participate in BHC was \$2,676 or \$7.33 per diem, however we were still short staffed for part of 2023.

With the hiring of a statewide Mental Health Court Coordinator we expect several changes to take place over the next two years.

III. County Administrator

Weekly Operations Report - The County Administrator will update the Commissioners on activities that have taken place since the previous meeting.

1. County Administrator Coates began his report by reminding everyone the Commissioners BBQ is taking place at 11:30AM.

2. Coates said the County Delegation meeting went very smoothly, all items passed.

3. Coates said he recently had a meeting with the Community Kitchen. Coates said he is very impressed with their expanded operations, he said they have been working with existing food pantries as well as their own.

4. Coates said we received one application from an RFP for the County Red barn in Westmoreland. Griffin Construction was the only response, and they are highly qualified. Coates gave them the go ahead to move forward.

5. Coates asked the Commissioners opinion on the newly elected official orientation which will take place after the November election. Coates said he wanted to stretch the orientation into two days to give folks a chance to see the other County campuses and not rush. The Commissioners agreed. Coates said it will likely be four hours each day.

6. Coates said work is progressing at the Westmoreland Gardens, much of the brush has been removed and the fence is in the middle of being repaired.

7. Coates said the CCEMS Inaugural Swearing In Ceremony will be on September 14th at 1:00PM in the Monadnock Regional High School Auditorium.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

VI. Consent Agenda Items:

Vote to accept the Weekly Manifests and Minutes of August 14, 2024.

Commissioner Englund made a motion to approve the manifest and minutes of August 14th, and Commissioner Clark seconded. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

VII. Calendar

Action Expected: To accept the calendar as informational and to make necessary changes/additions.

1. Director of Executive Services Bernstein said the meeting on August 28th is cancelled.

VIII. General Discussion for Commissioners

IX. Nonpublic Sessions:

A non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.

A non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.

At 10:06AM Commissioner Englund made a motion to enter a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a), and was seconded by Commissioner Wozmak. Upon a roll call vote

At 11:02AM the Commissioners left the non-public session.

As a result of the non-public the Commissioners voted unanimously to enter into an employment contract with County Administrator Coates.

A non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(l) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present.

A non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.

X. Adjournment

At 11:03 AM, Commissioner Englund moved to adjourn the meeting, which Commissioner Clark seconded. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by:
D. Bernstein
Director, Executive Services and
Communications

Reviewed and approved by:
T. Clark, Clerk
Board of Commissioners