

PAIUTE INDIAN TRIBE OF UTAH

Behavioral Care Department



Social Services

Substance Abuse Prevention

Counseling and Referral

440 North Paiute Drive
Cedar City, Utah 84721
(435) 586-1112
fax (435) 586-7388
www.utahpaiutes.org

Damon Polk, CAC II, has been a Substance Abuse Counselor with the Behavioral Care Department since May 2008. He is an enrolled member of the San Carlos Apache Tribe and of the Quechan Indian Nation. He was born and raised on the Quechan Indian Nation in Southern California. Damon facilitates the Red Road to Sobriety/AA Meetings, provides individual counseling, and is a Prime for Life instructor. He works to incorporate the strengths of the beautiful native ways of life with the proven treatment methods to create opportunities for client success. Damon feels very humbled and honored to serve the Paiute membership in this capacity.

Dwayne Lee, CAC II, has been working with the tribe since July 2008 as the Aftercare Coordinator. He is an enrolled member of the Comanche Nation and of the Navajo Tribe. He assists the tribal members with a 12-18 month aftercare and recovery program once they successfully complete an inpatient treatment program. This phase is critical to help them in their sobriety. Dwayne is grateful to be a part of the staff here and serve the Paiute Tribe.

Carol Garcia has been employed by the Tribe since April 2006, most recently as the Behavioral Care Intake Coordinator. She takes the initial information from tribal members seeking services and manages the client files. She is originally from Bodaway-Gap, AZ and is an enrolled member of the Navajo Tribe. She enjoys baseball and working with the Native youth and tribal members.

Savania Tsosie, MSW, is the Indian Child Welfare Coordinator. When Paiute children are removed from their homes, she ensures that compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (ICWA) is protecting the rights of Indian children. She offers culturally appropriate foster care training for the safety, and long-term wellbeing of Paiute children, and to keep the child connected to family, tribe, and community. She worked with the State of Utah's Division of Child and Family Services for 10 years. For six of those years she was the State's ICWA Program Administrator and during this time helped to establish the State/Paiute Memorandum of Understanding. Savania is a Navajo/Kiowa from Farmington, NM and is enrolled with the Navajo Tribe. She is appreciative that she has the opportunity to work with the Paiute community.

James Plonowski, SSW, received his psychology degree from the University of Las Vegas. In Las Vegas, James worked as a mental health case worker and clinical specialist. Before coming to the PITU, James was a Case Manager at Southwest Behavioral Health Center. He has lived in Cedar City for over four years and is an avid fly fisherman. He is a Prime for Life instructor, and works with families and partnering agencies as the Family Resource Coordinator.

Paula Claymore, SSW, is a member of the Cheyenne River Lakota Tribe of the Two Kettle band. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She has worked in the Human Services field her entire career. She began working for the Paiute Tribe in June 2008 as a Social Service Worker. She teaches prevention and parenting classes. She appreciates the Paiute people and finds the land majestic.

Vanessa Bird began working for the Tribe in March 2009. Vanessa serves as the Behavioral Care Secretary and the Tribe's Child Care Coordinator. She supports the Behavioral Care Department staff and manages the Child Care Program, which strives to increase quality child care opportunities for Tribal members. Vanessa graduated from Portland State University with a B.S. in History. She is extremely grateful for the opportunity to serve the Paiute people.

INPATIENT TREATMENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- ◆ Individuals must have made every effort to obtain help through outpatient services (attending A.A., following doctors' orders for medication, meeting weekly with a Substance Abuse Prevention Counselor, and completion of the TRAC Pre-Treatment Program.
- ◆ Individuals must be ready for treatment and acknowledge a desire to complete the entire program voluntarily. Those who do not complete the program and follow through with their aftercare plan may be required to re-pay the Tribe for the portion of treatment they did receive, as well as provide their own transportation home.
- ◆ Individuals may go to inpatient treatment only after all jail time has been served.

OUR MISSION AND GOALS

Our mission is to provide professional and comprehensive services in the fields of alcohol and substance abuse, mental health and case management for the purpose of assisting tribal members in need of these services.

Our goal is to strengthen the family, enhance the esteem of the individual, and empower tribal members to make responsible and healthy decisions relative to their own lives.

It is our mission to demonstrate respect for all clients at all times, always providing our services in a confidential manner. We believe in providing our services as a team, in partnership with clients, and that success is predicated on consistent support of clients who take responsibility for their own decisions.

OUR SERVICES

The Behavioral Care Department has many programs to offer tribal members and their families in the areas of Social Services, Substance Abuse Prevention, and Mental Health Counseling. All eligible enrolled tribal members and their family members can access department services at no charge.

- ◆ **Indian Homes For Indian Children** is the Paiute Tribe's Foster Parent Program. It adheres to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) guidelines while providing training and licensing of Native American homes for the placement of Native American children. We are continually looking for additional foster homes for Paiute children.
- ◆ **Prime For Life** is a 16 hour DUI/alcohol education course taught by certified instructors in all Band areas. This course is available for court-ordered and voluntary participants. There is a \$200 fee (includes evaluation) for eligible tribal members, and \$250 fee (no evaluation included) for non-tribal participants. Contact the Behavioral Care Department for a copy of the 2010 schedule.

- ◆ **Red Road to Sobriety** is a Native-based A.A. meeting. It is offered in Cedar City on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. at the PITU headquarters; in Koosharem (Sevier County) and Kanosh (Millard County) on alternating Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.; and in Shivwits (Washington County) on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. A.A. is free of charge and is an open meeting. *Everyone is welcome!*
- ◆ **Outpatient Treatment** for substance abuse is available to all eligible enrolled members of the PITU. Substance Abuse Counselors provide individual and group counseling, as well as assistance with court requirements, evaluations, and drug and alcohol screening.
- ◆ **Inpatient Treatment** for substance abuse is on average a 45 day stay at an I.H.S. approved facility. First priority is given to individuals up to age 24, adult pregnant women, or single women with dependent children. Male tribal members over age 24 will be served as funds are available. The eight-week TRAC pre-treatment curriculum must be completed prior to being approved for inpatient treatment.
- ◆ **Aftercare** is an intensive individualized treatment program which assists individuals in maintaining sobriety and healthy lifestyles. After completing inpatient treatment, all clients are expected to participate in a minimum of 24 months of aftercare treatment.
- ◆ **Mental Health Counseling and Assessment** is available free of charge for all eligible tribal members in each of the Band areas. Mental health evaluations are available for court-ordered clients. Support groups focus on topics such as grief, depression, and suicide prevention.
- ◆ **Positive Indian Parenting** is a traditional Native American curriculum designed to provide a brief, practical, culturally-specific training program for Indian parents. Parenting classes are scheduled at each of the Band areas throughout the year. Certificates of completion are available for court-ordered participants.
- ◆ **Case Management** provides assistance to tribal members in linking and coordinating tribal and other community services.
- ◆ **PITU Child Care Program** provides financial assistance to tribal members who meet eligibility guidelines.

- ◆ **Emergency Food Assistance** is offered in the form of vouchers and food boxes to aid tribal members during periods of economic hardship.
- ◆ **Open Gym Night** is offered from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays from October thru April for community recreation and to further promote healthy Native lifestyles. This program is free of charge and open to the public.

OUR TEAM

Each staff member shares in the responsibility of delivering counseling, support, and prevention services for both youth and adults.

Annie VanYperen, LCSW, has been Executive Director of Behavioral Care since the Social Services and Behavioral Health Department merged in 2006. She feels very fortunate to work with such a great team of social workers and substance abuse counselors. She is excited to see PITU offer an increasing number of services for tribal members and supports the efforts of tribal members to make the reservation areas safer for children and families.

Ed Weaver, LCSW, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who was recently hired as a mental health counselor by the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah. Prior to his hire, he worked thirty years for the State of Utah as a juvenile probation officer, treatment supervisor in a detention center, and counselor at a youth center for abused, neglected, and truant youth and their families. He and his wife have been married for nearly thirty years and have five children and three grandchildren.

Shanda Francisco, CAC II, has been working with the Tribe for six years as a Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist. Shanda is Maricopa/Apache and Navajo, born and raised in Fort Defiance, AZ. She graduated from Southern Utah University with a B.S. in Sociology and a minor in Computer Information Systems. Shanda is excited to be a team worker with the Behavioral Care Department.