



Photo from Peace & Dignity Journey Run



Bakersfield American
B·A·I·H·P
Indian Health Project

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

661-327-4030

www.BakersfieldAIHP.org

501 40th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

July

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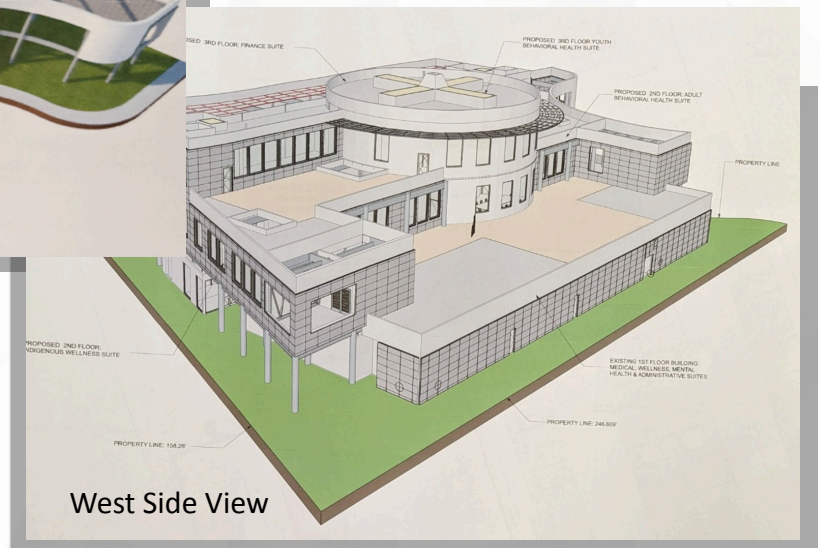
MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

1

BAIHP is excited to announce that as part of the BHCIP Round 5 grant, we are nearing the start of our major construction phase of our second story building. In the next month BAIHP will be renovating the first floor, which includes the medical and behavioral health wing to keep with the OSHPD-3 requirements for Ambulatory Care Facility. In doing so, we will be continuing our services we offer to our community and patients. This time frame of renovating the existing first floor (Medical and Lobby area) will take a few months. The renovation will not affect patient care, and our services will continue as normal, but we ask that you please be patient with us during this time. We will prioritize safety for all, which means that we will have to adjust to the construction zones redirecting patient flow. We will be posting sneak peek updates on Facebook and other means of social media.



Top Down View



West Side View

M. ANGEL GALVEZ, BS, MAOL
BAIHP CEO

OUR FEATHERS SOARING HIGHER

PEACE & DIGNITY JOURNEY

2

On July 14th, the Peace & Dignity Journey run, a profound and spiritually significant event, arrived in Bakersfield. This journey, embodying the belief that each step is a prayer, brought runners to the BAIHP clinic for nourishment, prayers, and insight into the journey that lay ahead. The runners were greeted with a warm reception and offered vital support for their continued trek.

The following day, the runners continued to the Tejon Indian Tribe, where they were welcomed with open arms and had the opportunity to partake in a Sweat Lodge ceremony, further enriching their spiritual experience.

BAIHP played a crucial role throughout this inspiring week. From July 14th to July 18th, they provided essential support, including transportation for runners needing breaks and refreshments like cold drinks and snacks to keep the participants energized. Their involvement ensured the runners' well-being and contributed to the journey's smooth progression.

The journey's final leg saw the runners arrive in Fillmore on July 18th, heading towards San Fernando at Rudy Ortega Park. This stop marked the largest gathering of the entire journey, highlighting the significant communal support and unity generated by the event. The Peace & Dignity Journey concluded its leg at this vibrant assembly, reflecting the collaborative spirit of the various communities and organizations involved.

BAIHP's unwavering support exemplified the heart of the Peace & Dignity Journey, affirming their commitment to cultural heritage, community solidarity, and spiritual unity.



BRIGHT FUTURES, BIG CAREERS

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As the new school year kicks off, we wanted to take a moment to thank everyone who made our Bright Futures, Big Careers Event such a huge success! From the enthusiastic turnout to the smiles on the students' faces and the gratitude from their families were truly heartwarming, it was a day filled with excitement and community spirit.

We're thrilled to share that our recent Back to School Backpack Giveaway was a tremendous success! We were able to equip 129 families comprising of 573 individuals including 408 students under the age of 18 with the tools they need for a bright start to the school year.

Thank you to all our community partners who joined us and made the day even more memorable! A special thanks to our partnership with IKEA from their generous donations we distributed hundreds of various items, including pots and pans, aprons, dish towels, and table mats to families who brought their students. Our community partners not only helped ease the financial burden for many parents but also brought smiles and hope to our community's children. Your commitment to our mission is inspiring, and we are incredibly fortunate to have such compassionate partners. Together, we have helped our community's students start the school year strong. We look forward to continuing our work together to create a brighter future for all.

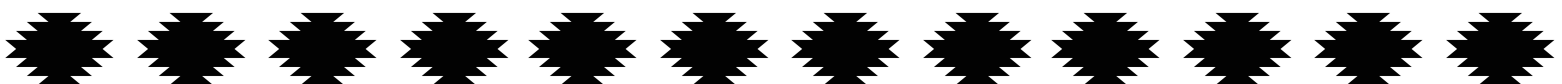


HARM REDUCTION VENDING MACHINE 4

Over the course of the past 25 years, over 1 million people in the United States have died due to fatal drug overdoses (CDC, 2022). In 2022, California reported the highest number of fatal drug overdoses in the United States (CDC, 2022). **American Indians in California experienced the highest rates of fatal opioid overdoses** per 100,000 with Fentanyl-related overdose deaths reported at **37.4% for AIAN**, the highest of any other race/ethnic group in the state (CDPH 2021). In 2022, Kern County ranked 8th out of the 58 California counties with an opioid fatality rate of 34.22 per 100,000 with similar patterns of racial disparities in opioid fatalities (CDPH, 2024).

In response to national and local trends in drug overdose and Hepatitis C and HIV infection rates, cities across the United States have started to implement health vending machines, which have been adopted in Europe since the late 1980s (Allen et al., 2022). Recent studies have documented the success of health vending machines in addressing these public health crises. One study found an association between Narcan (naloxone) dispensation from health vending machines and a decrease in opioid related overdose deaths throughout Clark County (Allen et al., 2022). Another recent study reported that **a health vending machine had a substantial impact on availability and distribution of harm reduction supplies**, exceeding distribution rates from the traditional needle exchange programs (Arendt, 2023). Moreover, the study found an association between implementation of the health vending machine and a decrease in fatal opioid overdoses as well as a downward trend in HIV incidences (Arendt, 2023).

With the support of our partners at Aegis, HOPE in the Valley, Anthem, and California State University Bakersfield, **we are launching our first wellness (health) vending machine at Bakersfield American Indian Health Project!** Our wellness vending machine will increase access to health and harm reduction supplies in Bakersfield for the public. Registered users may access the following products free of cost: hygiene, menstrual hygiene, safer sex, safer smoking, safer injection, naloxone (Narcan), fentanyl test strip, xylazine test strip, wound care, and Anchor box kits. **Use the QR code to register** and contact our ECM team at (661) 327-4030 for additional information. We look forward to partnering with our community to fight back against fentanyl and improve health and wellness!



ENHANCED CARE MANAGEMENT 5

The ECM program is a great opportunity for our community to get the individualized care needed for at-risk populations. ECM stands for “Enhanced Care Management” and that is the goal of the program- to enhance care for our people. ECM will set you up with a care manager who can help you coordinate medical necessities, behavioral health, and community-based services. It can also help connect any gaps in your care, such as, needing specialists or assistance with obtaining prescriptions. Our care managers can assist you with making office visits, setting up transportation, following up after a hospital or urgent care visit, sending referrals for housing, and much more. For more information if our ECM program is right for you, please call the front office at (661) 327-4030 and ask for Cheyenne Bond.

All of these services fall under our ECM program, which provides comprehensive support to meet your needs.

- Assistance with Appointment Reminders
- Assistance with Referral Follow-Ups
- Assistance with Coordinating Referrals
- Assistance with Finding Doctors
- Assistance with Scheduling Appointments
- Medication Assistance
- Explanation of Medications
- Assistance with Refills
- Assistance with Setting Up Transportation for Appointments
- Assistance with Social Services



STAR AWARD

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Twice a year, BAIHP recognizes outstanding employees who are recommended by their peers. Our latest winner of the Star Award is our HR Coordinator, Tiffany! Since joining BAIHP in November, she has truly been a backbone in the work that we do.

Since starting at BAIHP she has consistently embodied our company's core values and demonstrated exceptional dedication to our mission. For any staff that are privileged enough to work directly with her, she is an absolute joy to work with. Through her work with the organization, the staff at BAIHP feel that this is a welcoming place where opinions are heard and valued.



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Art Class | Monday 9:30AM - 11:30AM

Explore your creativity with traditional art

Bingocize | Tuesday and Thursday 10AM & 2PM

Play bingo, exercise, socialize, and win prizes!

Tai-Chi | Tuesday and Thursday 11AM - 12PM

Balance and Fall Prevention

Youth Group | Every Other Tuesday 5PM - 6:30PM

Ages 12 - 18

Cultural Talking Circles, Activities, Mental Health, Prevention and Building Community

Regalia Making | Tuesday 5PM - 7:30PM

Ages 12+ (12-15 require chaperone)

Sewing & Leather Work | Limited Spots (10) - RSVP to save your seat

Cultural Workshop | Wednesday 9AM - 11AM

Create your own cultural pieces such as turtle shell rattles, moccasins, medicine bags, and more!

Veterans' Talking Circle | First Wednesday of the Month 9AM - 11AM

Community & Culture Focus | Safe Space to Share

Nutrition Classes | Wednesday 10AM & 1PM

Nutrition Education, Learn & Practice Healthy Cooking & Diabetes Education Available Upon Request

Women's Talking Circle | Wednesday 1:30PM - 3:30PM

Community & Culture Focus | Safe Space to Share

Wellbriety | Wednesday 3PM - 4:30PM

12 Step Program With Guidance from The Red Road to Wellbriety from White Bison
"To Be Sober and Well"

May Meet Court Mandated Requirements

Beading Class | Wednesday 5PM - 7:30PM

Various Beading Activities. Learn Traditional Beading Styles

Drum & Dance Group | Thursday 6PM - 7:30PM

All Ages | Native Drumming Class, Pow-Wow Style Dancing and Etiquette

Due to ongoing construction, various activities may be postponed. We thank you for your patience.

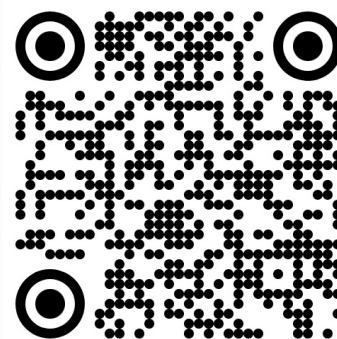
Birthdays at BAIHP



Birthday Shoutouts - From left to right:
Kat (July 26th), Tiffany (July 1st), Diana (July 23rd), Ashley (July 1st), Laura (July 5th)
Not pictured: Tara (July 30th)



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OUR MISSION

To serve the American Indian and Alaska Natives residing in Kern County by providing services that contribute to the health and vitality of the community in a respectful manner with high regard for cultural values, Tribal affiliation, and spiritual and personal values of individuals.

OUR VISION

BAIHP envisions a vibrant, healthful life for future generations of American Indians & Alaska Natives in Kern County by delivering sustainable, culturally integrated services, and fostering continuous community connections and whole wellness.

www.bakersfieldaihp.org

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