

QUARTERLY REPORT

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Prepared for:

**Yakim County Board of Commissioners
Yakima County Human Services**

INTRODUCTION

The Behavioral Health Supervision Unit's (BHSU) goal when working with clients with behavioral health issues and those in the high/risk and high/need population is to establish an expedient, reliable, and meaningful connection to treatment services. Reaching this goal requires a shift in how the County provides supervision services. This new approach is more comprehensive and integrated and utilizes evidence-based practice models, enabling us to align the appropriate staff and population to collaborate effectively. This ensures the necessary support and resources are provided to help the targeted population complete probation.





In this quarter, we focused on standing up the BHSU by:

- Priority 4— Case Management System (Data Spreadsheet)
- Priority 5- Partnership Building
- Priority 7- Policy Decision

Priority Four: Case Management System

BHSU uses LawBase for data collection, Excel spreadsheets, and pivot tables. This quarter, we modified the system to capture data necessary for reporting performance measures. While we continue to have minor setbacks in the software implementation process, we continue to work on a temporary process to capture data. The data we are working on measures program performance, interventions utilized to address client needs and basic programmatic data.

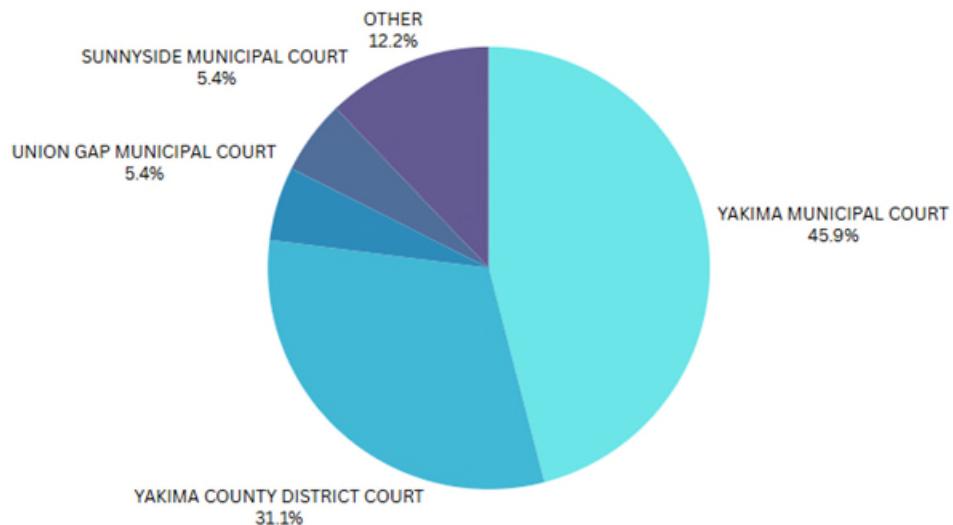
Data Measures

As we continue to work on program performance measures, BHSU has identified initial data points that are important to present for this quarter. We believe these data points are necessary to track as the BHSU continues to grow. We will compare these data points at the end of the year to track performance results. We have worked deliberately to provide you with some metric numbers for the following data points.

- Referring court
- Identification of the top 5 criminal charges
- Risk Distribution – ORAS CST RNR Assessment
- Time between sentencing date to intake appointments
- Time between intake appointments and RNR assessment appointments

Referring Court

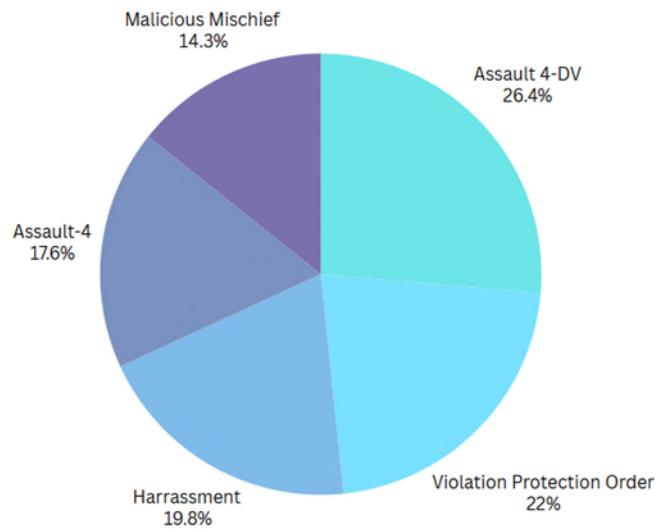
Yakima County District Court provides supervision services for every city/municipality in Yakima County. The graph below represents the percentage of cases by referring courts.



Yakima Municipal Court is the greatest contributor to the BHSU workload, followed by Yakima County District Court. This is expected as these are the largest courts of limited jurisdiction in Yakima County.

Charges Represented in the BHSU

We collect charge data for each case referring to the BHSU. The graph below depicts the top 5 criminal charges represented in our population.

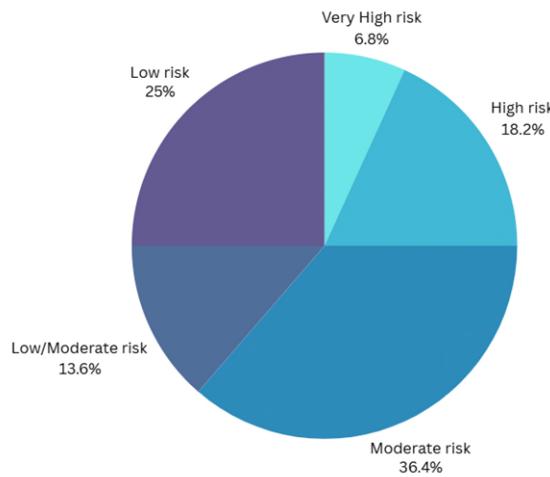


The data presented highlights the total top 5 charges, with the most common being:

- Assault 4 DV- 26.4%
- Violation Protection Order- 22%
- Harassment- 19.8%
- Assault 4- 17.6%
- Malicious Mischief 3- 14.3%

These charges, particularly those related to domestic violence harassment and assault indicate a strong connection between criminal behavior and underlying mental health or behavioral health issues. Understanding these patterns is critical for the BHSU as it continues to highlight potential areas for interventions, rehabilitation, and preventive measures.

Risk Distribution – ORAS CST RNR



The graph above illustrates the risk distribution associated with the client's being supervised by the BHSU as determined by the CST (RNR) assessment. This data is from December 2024 to March 2025. Here are the key observations:

- **Low-risk** outcomes account for 25 % of the population being supervised, indicating a lower level of risk.
- **Low/Moderate** risk outcomes represent 13.6%, indicating clients who fall between the two categories.
- **Moderate** risk outcomes account for 36.4%, suggesting that many clients fall into this category.
- **High-risk** risk outcomes make up 18.2 % of the total, highlighting a notable portion requiring attention.
- **Very High-risk** outcomes were at 6.8%, pointing to clients at the highest risk level.

Understanding the distribution of the CST risk assessment outcomes is significant for several reasons:

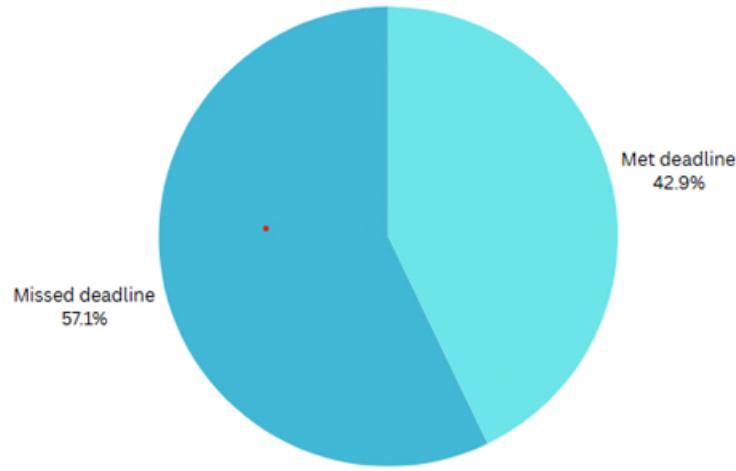
- Resource Allocation: Knowing how many clients fall into each risk category helps the BHSU allocate resources efficiently. For example, if a high percentage of clients are classified as high or very high risk, more resources will need to be directed towards intervention strategies.
- Early Interventions: Identifying clients at moderate and low/moderate risk can help the BHSU design more effective case planning, support systems, and rehabilitation programs.
- Workload Management: The time taken to administer assessments, combined with risk levels, provides insights into operational efficiency. Staffing or process improvements will be needed if many cases require extensive assessment times.
- Decision-Making Support: Feedback from Probation Counselors, Community Outreach Coordinators, and the Behavioral Health Specialist can help us understand the following:

The importance of assessment results, individualized case planning, and case prioritization based on barriers and needs.

- Accountability and Reporting: BHSU will track assessment results over time to evaluate risk level trends, effectiveness, and quality assurance compliance.

Timely access to the BHSU and Comprehensive Healthcare services is essential for successful supervision and treatment outcomes. Recent data shows that 42.9 % of cases met the 15-day policy for intake appointments between December 2024 to March 2025. Delays could impact the support and services provided to our clients. Addressing these inefficiencies now is crucial to ensuring compliance and improving service delivery. The graph below provides additional information.

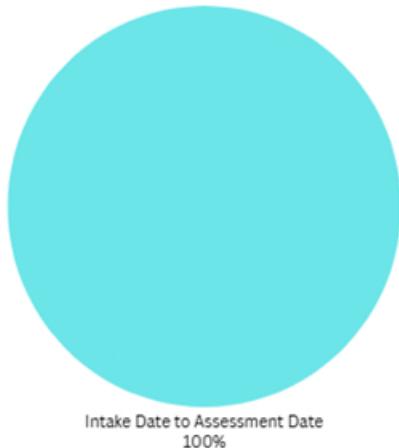
Time Between Sentencing & Intake Appointments



As this data only reflects the early stages of the BHSU, addressing these inefficiencies now is critical. The BHSU can eliminate inefficiencies by:

- **Monitoring & Evaluating Performance:** Regularly track compliance rates and adjust strategies as needed to improve the intake process over time.
- **Improving Communication:** Strengthen communication with clients through follow-up calls, text reminders and emails, and appointment letters to reduce missed appointments and rescheduling delays.
- **Increase Staffing & Training:** Assessing staffing levels, reducing high appointment volume, and providing additional training will help ensure that staff can efficiently process intakes.

Time Between Intake and RNR Assessment Appointment



This graph demonstrates that 100% of cases from December 2024 to March 2025 met the 15-day policy requirement of completing the RNR assessment within 15 days of intake. This achievement is more than just a procedural milestone, it represents a fundamental shift toward a more proactive, supportive, and rehabilitative approach to Community Supervision.

By integrating services like Comprehensive Healthcare into supervision practices, the BHSU has played a vital role in addressing underlying issues of mental health, and chemical dependency. We also address challenges that impact an individual's ability to comply with supervision requirements. Rather than relying on punitive measures alone, this unit fosters early intervention, promoting treatment engagement and case planning that align with both public safety and rehabilitation goals.

The success of the BHSU reinforces the importance of a person-centered approach to supervision. By recognizing the impact of mental health and chemical dependency challenges, the unit has proven to adopt a system of accountability that is paired with genuine support. This balance helps clients successfully navigate supervision requirements, improve their overall well-being, and increase their chances of long-term success.

The positive outcomes seen in the early phases of BHSU implementation emphasize its value as a crucial component of Community Supervision. By continuing to enhance service accessibility, streamlining processes, and providing quick interventions, the unit can further solidify its role in fostering rehabilitation, reducing recidivism, and ultimately transforming lives.

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Priority Five: Partnership Building

BHSU Web Page:

Enhancing Access to Resources and Support

As of March 2025, the BHSU is proud to announce the official launch of our dedicated webpage on the Yakima County public website. This platform is designed to enhance accessibility for both the public and our clients, ensuring they have the necessary tools and support at their fingertips.

The webpage is a critical tool in bridging the gap between clients and essential resources, ensuring that clients under supervision have the support they need to succeed. By offering easily accessible information, streamlined communication with staff, and up-to-date program details, this online platform enhances the rehabilitation process and promotes successful reintegration into the community.

Why this Matters

Many clients under supervision face barriers when seeking help, whether due to lack of information, difficulty in accessing services, or stigma surrounding behavioral health needs. The BHSU webpage removes these obstacles by providing:

- Immediate Access to Resources- Clients can quickly find relevant services, including behavioral health programs, community support, and educational opportunities, empowering them to take control of their progress.
- Transparent Program Information- The site details available classes and programs, helping clients engage in meeting their court order conditions. We provide classes such as Defensive Driving, Anger Management, Parenting, and Theft Awareness.
- Direct Staff Communication- Our webpage provides contact details for staff members, including assigned Probation Counselors, Community Outreach Coordinator, and Behavioral Health Specialist. Clients can also use a direct messaging feature to communicate with their assigned staff members effortlessly.
- Reduce Barriers to Rehabilitation- By offering online learning options, clients who face transportation, scheduling, or accessibility challenges can still participate in required classes fostering accountability and personal growth.

How Clients Benefit

By utilizing this webpage, clients gain a sense of empowerment, they are no longer navigating this process alone. Instead, they can use our webpage and user-friendly resources that will support them every step of the way. This accessibility increases engagement, encourages compliance with supervision requirements, and ultimately leads to positive outcomes in their journey toward stability and self-sufficiency.

The launch of the BHSU webpage represents BHSU's commitment to rehabilitation by providing clients with the tools they need to break the cycle of recidivism and build a better future for

themselves. Through this opportunity, the BHSU supports clients in need, fostering a safer and healthier community for all. Additionally, we continue to partner with the following:

Partnerships with Comprehensive Healthcare and Yakima County Jail:

Our collaboration with Comprehensive Healthcare and Yakima County Jail (Y CJ) continues to evolve. We are working to strengthen client communication and collect information on the implementation process of the 1115 Medicaid Reentry Demonstration Waiver. The Y CJ's participation in this program has been confirmed and they plan to have this program running in 2026. Comprehensive Healthcare will also be contributing to this program as they will be able to conduct mental health assessments in jail.

About the 1115 Medicaid Reentry Demonstration Waiver:

The Section 1115 Medicaid Reentry Demonstration Waiver is a federal initiative that allows states to use Medicaid funds to provide healthcare services to incarcerated clients shortly before their release. The primary goal is to improve care transitions and health outcomes for justice-involved populations.

Key Features:

- **Pre-Release Coverage:** States can offer Medicaid services up to 90 days before release from correctional facilities.
- **Required Services:** At a minimum, states must provide:
 1. Clinical services for substance use disorders.
 2. Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder.
 3. Case management to facilitate community reentry.
- **Optional Services:** States may also cover:
 1. Behavioral health assessments and treatments.
 2. Laboratory and radiology services.
 3. Medications and their administration.
 4. Peer support and community health worker services.

Washington State's Implementation:

Washington State's Medicaid Transformation Project has been approved from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2028. This includes provisions for the reentry population, allowing Medicaid coverage for eligible clients up to 90 days pre-release.

Impact on Mental Health Intakes in Jails:

This waiver facilitates pre-release planning and care coordination, enabling:

- Mental health assessments and treatment planning within correctional facilities.

- Improve continuity of care post-release, reducing gaps in mental health services.
- Better health outcomes and a potential reduction in recidivism.

Considerations:

YCJ participation in this waiver will start January 2026, and will be able to:

- Facilitate mental health intakes before release.
- Strengthen collaboration with community providers to ensure a seamless transition of care.
- Access federal funding to support these initiatives.

Implementing this waiver requires coordination between correctional facilities, state Medicaid agencies, Comprehensive Healthcare providers, and Community Supervision services to effectively address the healthcare needs of our clients.

BHSUs Role and Commitment:

The BHSU is excited to report on YCJ's participation in this program, as it creates new opportunities for our clients. With the 1115 Medicaid Reentry Waiver and with the assistance of the Behavioral Health Specialist the BHSU can:

- Provide mental health support and medication management for clients in custody.
- Enhance resource and case planning for smoother transitions.
- Build stronger relationships with clients through improved engagement.

Comprehensive Healthcare anticipates that the Behavioral Health Specialist embedded within our unit will conduct in-custody intakes. As this initiative progresses, further discussions will be necessary to ensure smooth and effective implementation. Our goal is to assist clients in stabilization and rehabilitation. This program will help expedite access to essential resources, and ensure clients receive the mental health care they need to overcome barriers and achieve long-term success.

Priority Seven: Preparing and Adopting Policy

The BHSU has finalized the drug testing policy. The BHSU has integrated the Oral Swab Testing and will begin using it as needed. This new method of sample collection will eliminate the barriers Community Supervision currently faces when there is no same-gender Probation Counselor available for drug testing. A copy of the drug testing policy has been included in this report as Addendum A.

ADDENDUM A

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that clients on supervision comply with the conditions of their supervision, particularly the requirements related to abstinence from illegal substances, alcohol, and other mind-altering substances. Drug testing is a vital tool used to monitor compliance and uphold the integrity of the supervision process.

Drug testing will be conducted as part of regular supervision to monitor for the presence of drugs, alcohol, or other prohibited substances in the client's system. Testing will be performed in a manner consistent with the conditions outlined in the client's judgment and sentence or court order issued by the court.

2. Non-Discrimination and Gender Identity Considerations

All clients, regardless of gender identity, will be treated with dignity, respect, and fairness during drug testing. Discrimination based on gender identity or expression is prohibited.

- A client's gender identity, as expressed to the Probation Counselor/Case Manager, will be noted in the electronic case file under the alerts in the case management system. This process will guide drug testing procedures.
- All information regarding a client's gender identity, medical history, and drug test results will remain confidential and disclosed only to individuals directly involved in the supervision process or as required by law.
- Whenever possible, gender-neutral restrooms or private spaces will be used for urine sample collection. If a gender-neutral option is unavailable, transgender clients may choose to either provide an observed sample with a staff member of the gender they identify with or submit an oral swab sample.
- Staff should avoid making assumptions about gender identity and should conduct testing in a manner that maintains the client's dignity and privacy.

3. Conditions for Testing

A. Mandatory Testing

Clients who have been ordered by the court to abstain from alcohol, illegal drugs, or other controlled substances will be subject to random or scheduled drug testing.

B. Probation Discretion

The Probation Counselor or Case Manager has the authority to request a drug test based on the following factors:

- When directed by a Judicial Officer.
- Behavior or conduct indicating potential substance use, per Judgement and Sentence.
- Credible information from external sources such as Law Enforcement or treatment providers.
- The client's history of substance abuse or prior violations.
- Training and experience.

C. Random Testing

Clients will be randomly selected for random drug testing based on the Probation Counselor/Case Manager's discretion. All clients under court orders must comply with the request.

4. Frequency of Drug Testing

The testing frequency can be conducted at any time throughout supervision. When deciding the frequency of drug testing, the Probation Counselor/Case Manager should consider the following:

- History of the client's substance abuse or prior violations during supervision.
- Behavior or conduct indicating potential substance use.
- The client's treatment non-compliance reports.
- Information shared by the chemical dependency counselor.
- Case plan goals.

Drug testing conducted through a certified treatment agency may be accepted if the Probation Counselor or Case Manager obtains proper documentation confirming the client's test submission. All documentation must be recorded in the client's electronic case file within the case management system. Additionally, Probation Counselors must continue to conduct random drug testing at their professional discretion.

5. Refusal or Inability to Provide a Sample

If a client refuses or fails to provide a urine sample or is unable to do so after two attempts, an oral swab test will be offered as a final option. Refusal to provide a sample may result in a violation of supervision. In such cases, within 24 hours of the violation. The Probation Counselor/Case Manager must file a petition violation and refer the matter to the sentencing Court.

6. Consequences for Positive Drug Test Results

A positive drug test will result in:

- A petition filed within 24 hours.
- Report positive results to treatment providers.
- Review treatment reports and request the necessary documentation to attach to the petition being filed.
- Review and update the client's case plan if necessary.

7. Testing Devices:

Yakima County Community Supervision Services recognizes the importance of staying informed about emerging drug trends and the most effective testing devices. To ensure accuracy, we will conduct a review, no less than once per year, of new drug trends and update the testing panel accordingly. Currently, we utilize the following devices for testing:

- I-Cup 15-panel Testing Device.
- Quantisal Oral Fluid Collection Device.
- Oralert Fluid Drug Screen Instant Oral Swab Device.

I-Cup 15-Panel Testing Device is the default testing method and should be used for all clients unless one of the following circumstances exist:

- Use when no same-gender staff are available for observing and collecting the sample.
- Use for clients with verified medical conditions preventing them from providing a urine sample.
- Use as a last option when a client refuses to provide or cannot produce a urine sample.

Administering the Drug Test:

All samples being prepared for lab analysis must be under the direct supervision of the staff member who administered the sample until the sample is locked in the identified secure compartment for storage.

When administering the I-Cup urine test, all tests will be observed to ensure that we are getting a valid sample. Oral swabs will be conducted by Probation Counselors and Case Managers in the office to ensure the accuracy of the sample. The Probation Counselor/Case Manager responsible for administering the test shall carry out all necessary procedures, including logging the sample into the case management system, preparing the required documentation for sending the sample to the laboratory, and performing any additional tasks as needed.