



Salish Behavioral Health
Administrative Services Organization

R.E.A.L. PROGRAM

CLALLAM, JEFFERSON, AND KITSAP COUNTIES

AUGUST 2025
SURSAC MEETING

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

- 5 teams across Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap Counties
- January 2024 – June 2025:
 - 2,448 estimated unduplicated individuals encountered
 - 12,777 contacts
 - 8,831 referral and outreach contacts
 - 3,946 case management contacts

KITSAP COUNTY R.E.A.L. TEAMS – OVERVIEW

- Law enforcement jurisdictions: Bremerton Police Department (PD), Port Orchard PD, Poulsbo PD, Bainbridge Island PD, and Kitsap County Sheriff's Office
- Tribal Nations: Suquamish and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribes
- 2024 population: 281,420 residents
- Two R.E.A.L. Teams: Agapé Unlimited and West Sound Treatment Center
 - Each team has four staff: 1 Project Manager, 1 Care Manager, and 2 Recovery Coaches
 - Includes staff with lived experiences of incarceration, houselessness, and substance use in their past

KITSAP COUNTY R.E.A.L. TEAMS – OVERVIEW

- Program partners include:
 - Bremerton PD, Port Orchard PD, Poulsbo PD, Bainbridge Island PD, and Kitsap County Sheriff's Office
 - Shelters: Salvation Army, Benedict House, Kitsap Rescue Mission
 - Kitsap Community Resources/Housing Solutions Center
 - Behavioral Health Providers: BAART Programs, Peninsula Community Health Services, Kitsap Recovery Center, Kitsap Mental Health Services
 - Fire Departments/CARES: South Kitsap Fire and Rescue (CARES), Central Kitsap Fire and Rescue (CARES), Poulsbo Fire Department (CARES), Bremerton Fire Department, Bainbridge Island Fire Department, North Kitsap Fire and Rescue

KITSAP COUNTY R.E.A.L. TEAMS – OVERVIEW

- Challenges:
 - Limited withdrawal management facilities in region – long travel time and staffing abilities
 - Housing – limited beds in low-barrier shelters and permanent supportive housing
- Creative Solutions and Successes:
 - Partnership with Gather Together Grow Together (G2) – door-to-door transportation to withdrawal management and inpatient facilities across Washington – R.E.A.L. teams can remain in-region
 - Working closely with Kitsap Community Resources/Housing Solutions Center to support participants with accessing shelter beds

KITSAP COUNTY R.E.A.L. TEAMS – PARTICIPANT SUCCESS STORY

From a program participant: *"I would like to extend my most sincere thanks to the R.E.A.L. Team for their dedication and professionalism in the Substance Addiction Disorder field of service in support of my recovery from drug addiction.*

At a time in my life when drug addiction clouded my rational thinking, and I lost the will to live and thought I no longer had anything to live for in this world, the team intervened at the precise moment of the lowest point in my life and convinced me that there was a better way of life.

They had the ability to remove me from my current dismal location on the floor of a trap house and entered me into eleven days of drug detoxification, then to forty-five days of intensive inpatient treatment for the addiction of opiates.

After the successful completion of treatment, the team introduced me to a fantastic group. I have found a home away from home with others who suffer from the same stigmas that society has placed on people such as me, where we are working a recovery program. Again, I want to say thank you for all of your support."

JEFFERSON COUNTY R.E.A.L. TEAM – OVERVIEW

- Many small towns in Jefferson County, and the City of Port Townsend
- Law enforcement jurisdictions: Port Townsend PD and Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
- In 2024, population: 33,944, median age: 64
- 1 R.E.A.L. Team in Jefferson County with 7 staff:
 - 1 Project Manager
 - 1 Care Manager
 - 5 Recovery Coaches

JEFFERSON COUNTY R.E.A.L. TEAM – OVERVIEW

- Program partners include:
 - Jefferson Healthcare Emergency Department
 - Olympic Community Action Programs
 - East Jefferson Fire Rescue CARES
 - Quilcene CARES
 - Brinnon Fire Department
 - Local Shelter (Bayside Housing)

JEFFERSON COUNTY R.E.A.L. TEAM – OVERVIEW

- Challenges:
 - No withdrawal management or inpatient substance use disorder (SUD) treatment facilities – travel outside of county required
 - Housing
 - Transportation
- Creative Solutions and Successes:
 - Partial Hospitalization Program recently opened, offering an alternative to inpatient services
 - Coordinating with St. Michael's Hospital in Kitsap County to get participants medically cleared and transported to withdrawal management treatment in Kitsap County, reducing travel time
 - Taking public transportation with participants to support them in feeling confident getting where they need to go

JEFFERSON COUNTY R.E.A.L. TEAM – PARTICIPANT SUCCESS STORY

- When this participant self-referred and started engaging with the R.E.A.L. Program, she wasn't interested in any kind of services. She was pregnant, living out in the woods, using methamphetamine, and not interested in change. Over time, we built a relationship with her and introduced her to medical staff who could support her through her pregnancy. A few months after the birth of her baby, the baby was removed from her custody by Child Protective Services (CPS). With a lot of encouragement and peer support from the R.E.A.L. Team, she made the decision to go to treatment and try to get her baby back. She's now in a much more stable position, with permanent housing and a job. Her CPS case plan is set to be completed in a month.
- Excerpt from the 5-page letter written by this participant expressing her gratitude for the program: *"I had never felt so low and alone in my life, but once again Sam on the R.E.A.L. Team did not let me feel that way. She did what she does the best and showed up for me at my lowest and offered me a hand up and encouraged me to not give up."*

CLALLAM COUNTY R.E.A.L. TEAMS – OVERVIEW

- Population: Approximately 77,600 residents
- Covers over 1,700 square miles of rural, coastal terrain
- Includes Port Angeles, Forks, Sequim, Neah Bay, La Push, and smaller communities
- Tribal Nations: Quileute, Makah, Hoh, Lower Elwha Klallam, and Jamestown S’Klallam Tribes
- Limited public transportation, cell service, and treatment infrastructure in rural/frontier areas
- Two R.E.A.L. Teams: Reflections Counseling Services Group and Peninsula Behavioral Health work side by side, cross-covering, sharing resources, and responding countywide

CLALLAM COUNTY R.E.A.L. TEAMS – OVERVIEW

- Peer-led outreach in rural and tribal communities
- Coordinated participant referrals, on-call coverage, and warm handoffs
- Program partners include:
 - Local law enforcement jurisdictions: Port Angeles PD, Forks PD, Sequim PD, and Clallam County Sheriff's Office
 - Community paramedics and emergency medical services (EMS) for follow-up care
 - Tribal health and social service programs in Neah Bay, La Push, and Port Angeles
 - Jails, courts, and prosecutors for diversion and reentry support
 - Housing, medication assisted treatment (MAT), and behavioral health providers for care coordination

CLALLAM COUNTY R.E.A.L. TEAMS – OVERVIEW

- Challenges:
 - Long travel times and difficult terrain
 - Limited withdrawal management, housing, and inpatient treatment availability: one inpatient treatment facility (men's only)
 - Transportation barriers for participants
 - Difficulty recruiting and retaining peer workforce
 - High demand from communities for small teams covering large areas

CLALLAM COUNTY R.E.A.L. TEAMS – OVERVIEW

- Creative Solutions and Successes:
 - Strong interagency collaboration and tribal engagement
 - Consistent housing and treatment access support
 - Deep community trust through peer connection
- Needs:
 - Rural-aware funding models
 - Transportation and vehicle support
 - Peer staff development and retention
 - Transitional and supportive housing for individuals with SUD

CLALLAM COUNTY R.E.A.L. TEAMS – PARTICIPANT SUCCESS STORY

Letters from two program participants (a couple) who worked with the R.E.A.L. Team:

- *“When I first connected with the R.E.A.L. Team, I was at the Clallam County Jail and was heading into a 1-year sentence in Prison. Knowing Mike was there for me, and he was able to help my girlfriend, allowed me to see that I was going to have support when I was released. After getting out of prison, I contacted Mike to get support. Mike helped me with so much – finding housing, getting my ID and Social Security card, and helping me find work. He walked with me through the process of getting help from DSHS, finding a doctor, and meeting my basic needs. The support I received made all the difference. With Mike’s help, I was able to overcome major barriers and start building a new life for myself.”*
- *“Addiction and mental health challenges had taken over my life when I met the R.E.A.L. Team. I was overwhelmed and didn’t know where to start. Mike supported me with housing, treatment, and navigating systems. Mike made sure I was able to get the things I needed – food, support, and someone to believe in me. The R.E.A.L. Program gave me the strength and tools to take control of my life. I honestly couldn’t have done it without them. I have an appointment with an enrollment counselor for college and I’m excited for what my future holds.”*