

The Umbrella



HUMAN SERVICE AGENCY
Helping People Achieve

WINTER 2025

A Very Merry HSA Christmas

The holidays are a time of celebration with family and friends! At the Human Service Agency, many of the people supported in the community are not able to gather with their family due to a variety of barriers. This provided the opportunity for different departments to host a holiday celebration for the individuals that are unable to make it home to family.

These events have become a favorite tradition. It is such a gift for staff to watch the people they care for and spend so much time with get together for a meal, smile as they open gifts, and just spend time relaxing and enjoying the holiday celebration.



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Mon-Thurs: 8 AM—8 PM

Friday: 8 AM—5 PM



Human Service Agency

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Watertown PD Community Partnership Award

The following excerpt was taken from the Watertown Police Department Facebook page on January 15, 2025:

One of the core values of our agency is community. The Watertown Police Department strives to provide the highest quality of service through partnerships with the community by utilizing all available resources. We recognize various individuals, businesses, and organizations that have made significant contributions and/or provided outstanding services to our department and the community each year.

Yesterday, we had the honor of presenting Kelli Rumpza with the Community Partner Award. Kelli serves as a Certified Prevention Specialist at the Human Service Agency in Watertown. She collaborates with local programs, organizations, and resources to help build a safe and healthy community for our youth. Through her efforts, Kelli facilitates several community coalitions that focus on alcohol, tobacco, suicide prevention, and other youth social issues.

Kelli's passion for prevention in youth is evident in everything she does. Year after year, she continues to find new ways to assist those in need and leads

by example. Whether sourcing materials, handouts, research, or creating impactful social posts, Kelli goes above and beyond to reach as many families as possible.

For numerous years, Kelli has led the Watertown Healthy Youth and Tobacco Coalition groups, focusing on minimizing the number of youth exposed to dangerous and addictive substances like tobacco, drugs, and alcohol. Additionally, she oversees the Project SUCCESS school-based prevention program at the Watertown Middle School and High School.

Kelli has been instrumental in multiple prevention projects, including updating

signage in public areas prohibiting vape usage and collaborating with the Watertown School District to revise the activities policy on drug, alcohol, and tobacco use.

Kelli also works directly with youth, conducting surveys to identify common issues and developing plans to provide healthy alternatives and avoidance strategies.

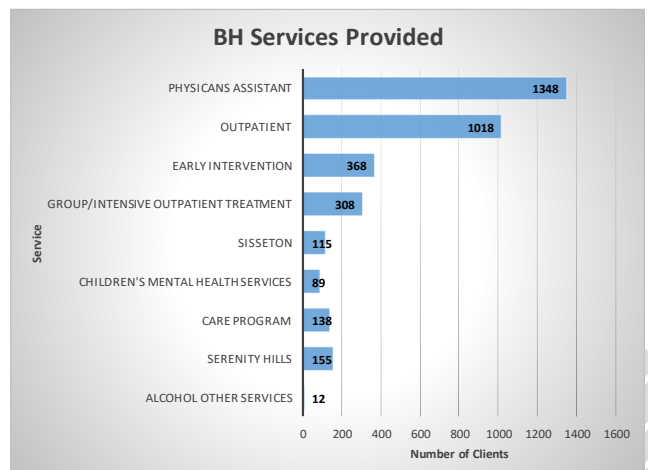
Kelli, thank you for all you do to keep the youth in our community safe and healthy. Your dedication and hard work truly make a difference, and we are proud to recognize you with this well-deserved award!



Human Service Agency Behavioral Health Report

In 2024, The Human Service Agency Behavioral Health entities had the opportunity to serve 2,324 individual clients for a variety of services (see chart.) A majority of the clients reside in Codington County, but we do see a lot of outreach to the other counties within the HSA service area. Behavioral Health has consistent partnerships with the area school districts and police departments.

This past year, the Psychiatric prescribing team wrote policies/procedures and started a Spravato clinic which as been effective in providing improvements in clients with treatment resistant depression. Also, a majority of our mental health clinicians were trained in Accelerated Resolution Therapy (ART.)



Happy New Year from Kari Johnston, Executive Director of HSA



It is with great excitement and gratitude that I reach out to update you on our latest endeavors and accomplishments. As we continue to grow and evolve, I am constantly reminded of the incredible work we are doing and the positive impact we are making in the lives of those we serve.

We owe a huge “thank you” to our recent outgoing board member and former president, Dennis Evenson. Dennis has been on the board of directors for the Human Service Agency since the early 1980s. He has served as board president for the past 20 years. During his time Dennis has overseen much growth and significant changes: the addition of an in house pharmacy, changes in programming,

the sale of two New Horizons homes, the purchase of a new New Horizons home; the building of Serenity Hills and the addition of a crisis stabilization center.

Dennis was on the board when Dr. Al Wylie left HSA and participated in hiring both Dr. Chuck Sherman and Kari Johnston as Executive Directors. Dennis will be replaced by Deuel county resident and former HSA employee, Pam Luecke. Scott Olson has taken the reins as board president.

We had the opportunity to celebrate the holidays with clients agency wide. A huge shout out to First Premier Bank for their large donation to assist with this as well as to those giving hearts within our community: Shari & Jeff Wirkus, SaLena & Troy Engels, Rachel & Chad Hanish, Eric Brewster, and multiple staff members who stepped up and took lists to provide gifts for those who would otherwise have been alone on the holiday.

We recently sold our property at 1203 1st Avenue NE to Lake Area Technical College. As a result, we were able to

purchase a 4 unit, 3 bedrooms per unit apartment building for New Horizons. Those individuals moving to these units have a smaller, cozier living environment and each person has their own bedroom. They also have a community room where they can host social events or family gatherings.

We hope you are excited for the changes and growth to come in 2025. Goals for this year are a building expansion at our main agency, increasing the number of clients we serve agency wide and hosting an HSA Foundation Event.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to all of our staff. The past several years we have experienced many changes, growth and difficulties. We could not have done it without the dedication of so many. It is an honor to work alongside such passionate and compassionate individuals. Together, we are making a tangible difference, and I look forward to all that we will accomplish in the coming months.

**Thank you to Dennis Evenson for
40+ Years of Service with the
Human Service Agency
Board of Directors!
We appreciate your dedication!**



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Dennis Evenson with incoming Board President Scott Olson.