

Mount Blanca, Sangre de Cristo Mountains

Photo by Patt Morgan-Lloyd

2005 Annual Report



San Luis Valley Mental Health Center

2005 Letter from Ruth Horn, *president of the board*

I am very pleased to present the 2005 annual report for the San Luis Valley Comprehensive Community Mental Health Center (SLVCCMHC). The theme of this year's annual report is directed at "Housing Services" for persons with mental illness in our communities. Housing is a critical element in stabilizing recovery and self-sufficiency for this population of consumers. Our menu of programs, including housing issues, has been filled with a number of challenges and significant accomplishments over the past year. I am appreciative that staff and consumers continually stepped up to meet the daily challenges that face this organization. Under the leadership of our Executive Director Fernando Martinez, the SLVCCMHC has maintained an open door policy to the indigent consumer and has continued to offer a variety of services that support community recovery as well as a vast network of community partnerships.

■ Within the past year the Center was awarded 13 housing vouchers targeted at homeless consumers with mental illness. This award will help expand our strategy to address the needs of our consumer population that want to remain in the community. In addition, the Center recently completed the purchase and renovation of a residence to be made available to the homeless voucher program.

■ The New Beginnings Wellness and Recovery Center has reorganized to offer further services such as consumer job training, vocational assessments, computer training, social skills training, medication management and life skills training. Cooking, physical exercise and utilizing art to promote recovery seem to be very popular within the Life Skills component. The staff and consumers will be sponsoring their second annual art exhibit in the spring of 2006.

■ The Center has also developed a Child Placement Agency (CPA). The new program will be focusing on recruitment of therapeutic foster parents to provide services to children in need of foster placement.

■ A new position was created between the mental health and community corrections programs to help coordinate services and to serve as a liaison between programs as the demand for mental health and substance abuse services have increased.

■ The San Luis Valley Prevention Coalition is sponsored by SLVCCMHC and received increased funding to expand coalition efforts to address underage drinking in Alamosa County.

■ I am proud to announce that in 2005, the SLVCCMHC received a \$40,000 performance incentive award from the Colorado Division of Mental Health Services for receiving the highest ranking in the consumer survey and assessment data categories.

I am very grateful to those individual who have contributed their time and resources to ensure that we continue to incorporate recovery principles and practices into our services. This type of effort has contributed to our success over the past 12 months. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we remain committed to our mission of serving the mental health needs of the San Luis Valley.

Sincerely,

Ruth Horn

Board President.

San Luis Valley
Comprehensive Community Mental
Health Center

Mission Statement

To Improve the Quality of Life for the Citizens
of the San Luis Valley

Board Directory

Ruth Horn - President

Louise Sanchez - Vice President

Brenda Vialpando - Secretary

Ruth Romero - Treasurer

Jerry Gallegos

Martin Gonzales

Manuel Lopez

Joe Martinez

Marbella Smith-Aman

Honorary Member Charlotte Bobicki

Lorie Garcia

Harry Larsen

Konnie Martin

Tom Valdez



2005 The Executive Director's Message

The San Luis Valley Comprehensive Community Mental Health Center (SLVCCMHC) has once again successfully met a number of challenges that were encountered over the past year. This was only accomplished through a partnership effort of staff and the countless community partners that support the mission of our center. The ability of staff to adapt to the numerous changes introduced to our system of service delivery is a testament to their adaptability, tenacity and good old fashioned hard work.

The result of the recent reorganization of MHASA's into Behavioral Health Organization (BHOs) under Health Care Policy and Finance (HCPF) has been a positive experience for our center. The reorganization joined eight mental health centers (San Luis Valley, West Central, Southeast, Spanish Peaks, Pikes Peak, Midwestern, Colorado West and Southwest) to form the new Company called Colorado Health Partners (CHP). I am pleased to report that CHP was awarded the Medicaid contract in November of 2004, with the contract taking effect January of 2005. CHP now represents 22 counties and is the largest BHO in the state and I am happy to report the other seven mental health centers have become strong allies and valued partners.

Since our center has many programs under its umbrella, it is worthy to report that our Community Corrections program recently completed an expansion project that allows for a female corrections population to be served at our complex for the first time since the program's inception. The facility now offers local female offenders the opportunity to complete their sentences close to their families.

The focus of this annual report centers on strategic housing services for the population with mental illness. Housing services play a crucial role in our center's effort to create community alternatives

By
Fernando Martinez



that promote recovery and self-sufficiency. Our efforts in this area could not be accomplished without a broad continuum of care that helps maintain a complicated support system of housing services. Section 8 housing has proven successful in our efforts to keep persons with mental illness in the community. We are also excited to report that our center recently was awarded several vouchers for the new Shelter Plus Care Program. This program will assist our homeless and disabled populations maintain stability and avoid costly hospitalizations.

It is important to note that funding for mental health services is a constant struggle and our center is working hard to maintain quality and effective services through the year and beyond. Our work with the indigent population remains a priority and our commitment to Recovery continues to be incorporated in our daily treatment practices.

Thank you for your commitment to community partnerships.



2005 Shelter Plus Care!

Supportive Housing and Homeless Programs

Homelessness. It's something we think happens to other people, but not to us. In reality, many Americans live paycheck to paycheck and an unforeseen crisis can easily put them over the edge. For persons with a mental illness who fall into homelessness, it can be nearly impossible to regain stability.

A new opportunity now exists in the San Luis Valley to address the needs of this marginalized population. In 2005 the San Luis Valley Comprehensive Community Mental Health Center began developing a "Shelter Plus Care" program after being awarded 12 housing vouchers. These vouchers were awarded through the combined efforts of the mental health center and the Supportive Housing and Homeless Programs (SHHP). The goal of the program is to provide program participants the opportunity for choice in both housing and supportive services so they have greater control over their life circumstances and a sense of inclusion in the community.

A unique aspect of the program is the ability to design supportive services to meet the needs of each individual person. Persons who have been chronically homeless need to develop a trusting relationship with someone who will work with them at their own pace to meet their needs. Once the person agrees to participate with supportive services, they are eligible to proceed with obtaining housing. The person with little or no income can obtain an apartment and meet basic needs. Once basic needs such as food and housing are met, a person can then progress to reaching other goals. The participant will receive assistance in cooking, budgeting, job readiness skills, and employment opportunities.

As part of the development of this program, the San Luis Valley Mental Health Center has purchased and renovated a three bedroom home. This housing alternative allows participants to live independently, while still receiving social support and independent living skills along with their roommates. This housing option is especially appropriate for those clients who may isolate or withdraw from the community.

The mental health center strives to meet the needs of the citizens of the Valley, which include helping people to lead full and productive lives. Shelter Plus Care is a new and exciting addition to our services which helps us to achieve this goal.

The San Luis Valley Comprehensive Community Mental Health Center currently participates in two Housing & Urban Development (HUD) sponsored rental assistance programs:

- ◆ the Housing Choice Voucher/Section 8 Program, and
- ◆ the Shelter Plus Care Program.

The Colorado Department of Human Services, Supportive Housing & Homeless Programs is the housing authority for the SLV Mental Health Center. We currently administer 23 Section-8 vouchers, and 12 Shelter Plus Care slots, and 2 Community Corrections Transition Units. The Mental Health Center currently owns 19 apartment units, and one 3 bedroom house, all occupied by clients from our housing programs.

By
Judy McNeilsmith
*Director of
 Community Resources
 Development*



What clients are saying about the program....

"It's better than being homeless and living on the streets."

"I like the programs because it's given me time to do the things I need to do and a home where I can live."

"I now have a part time job."

"I like having a better crowd of people to be with."

"It is helping me stay sober."

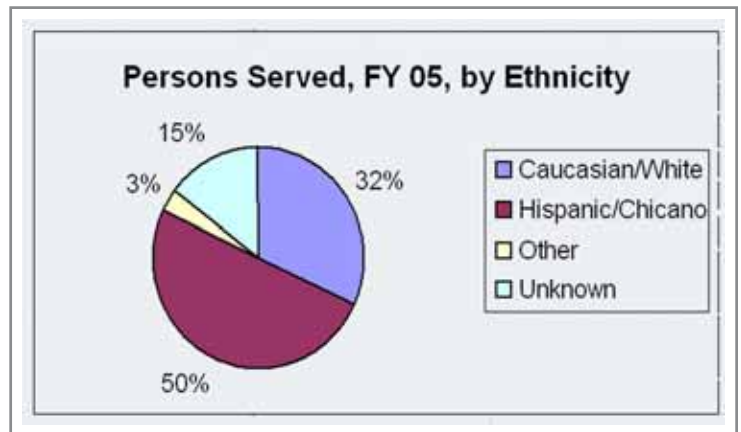
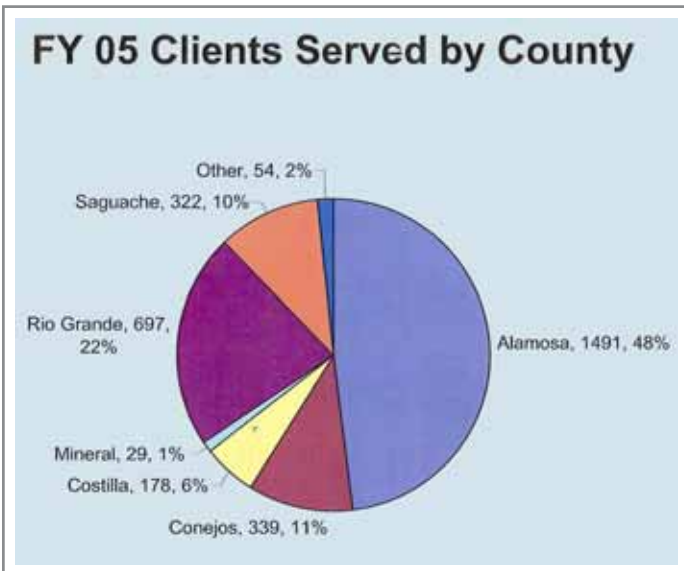
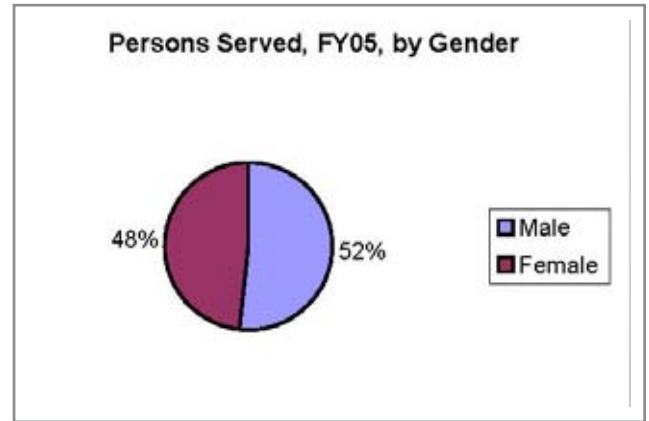
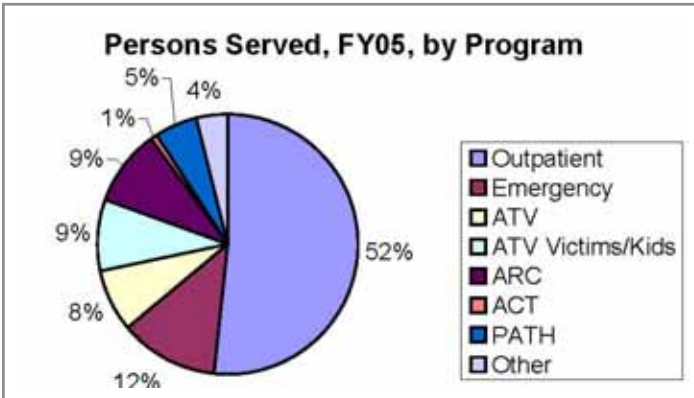
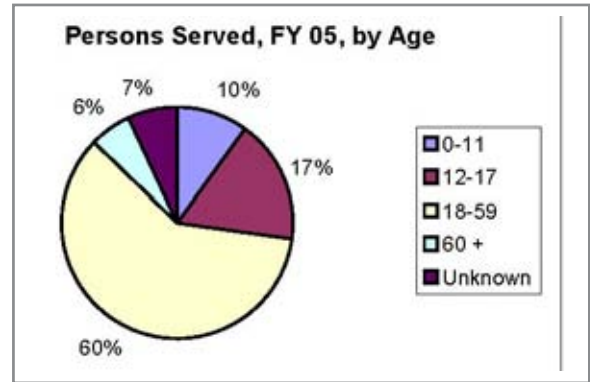
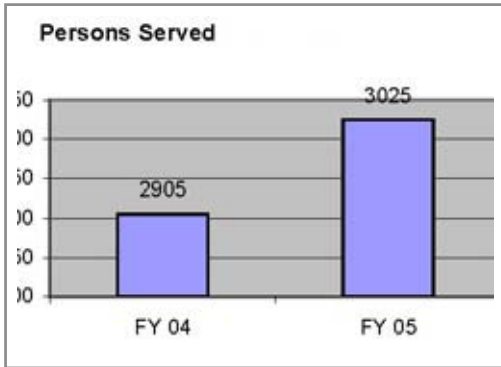
◆ Larry Ortega is the Residential Coordinator



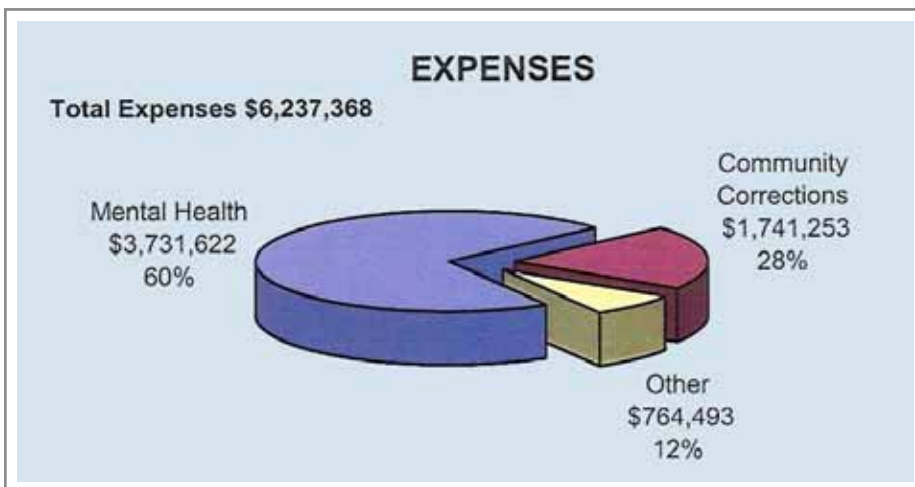
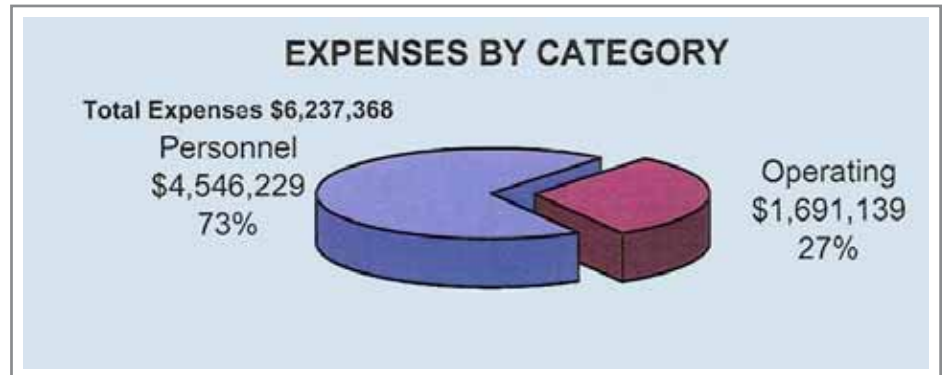
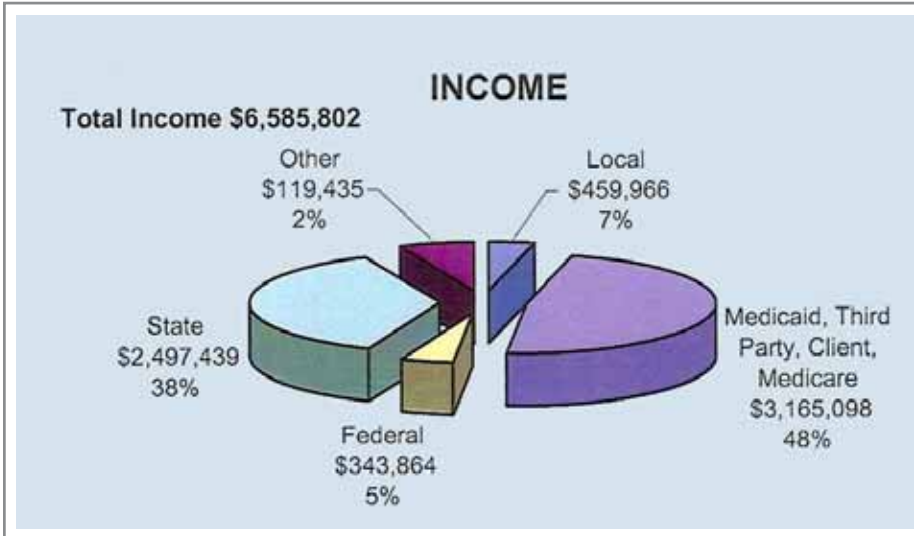
◆ Victoria Romero is the Shelter Plus Care Coordinator



2005 Our service record for the year



2005 Financial Report



2005 Office Locations



8745 County Road 9 South,
Alamosa, CO
(719) 589-3671



322 Walnut
La Jara, CO
(719) 274-5154



San Luis – 409 Trinchera
San Luis, CO
(719) 672-0331



260 Worth St.
Center, CO
(719) 754-3927



9th and Dahlia
Antonito, CO
(719-376-2511)



402 4th Ave
Monte Vista, CO
(719) 852-5186



New Beginnings Wellness &
Recovery Center

522 Alamosa Ave.
Alamosa, CO
(719) 589-2681



Private Probation
915 Fourth Street
Alamosa, CO
(719) 589-5527

Community Corrections:
2017 Lava Lane
Alamosa, CO
(719) 589-5134

