

WORDS FROM THE GRADUATE

During my enrollment with Behavioral Health Court, I have gained the knowledge to make drastic changes to my life for the better and also changes in the direction I'd personally like to grow. Before, I couldn't be bothered by people who just wanted to help, but through this program and by this team, I have learned that it is ok to accept help and that sometimes everyone needs it, even the best of people. No one is devoid of flaws, it helps to just believe there is a positive side to every turn you take, every person you meet, everything you wind up being a part of has a purpose in your future and it's all experience you'll need to comfortably go forward. Not everything is as it seems at first.

My long-term goals have always weighed on my mind. Now, I am confident to achieve them with my five-year plan. Living on my own completely free of dependance and to have a job I am proud enough to call a career. The first problem was always knowing what I wanted to do. I have made the decision to go through an apprenticeship with the union, which can be stressful at times. However, what's different this time is I have found Oxford, a supportive community that is understanding and flexible so long as you're making the right moves. I can't believe something so simple, yet beneficial, has been right in front of me the whole time. It gives me the confidence to take necessary chances and will hold me accountable if I get stuck in a rut.

I've spent my whole life recognizing my lucky breaks only after they were gone. Now with my new understanding of myself gained from meeting and interacting with this Behavioral Health Court team, I don't have too. I want to thank the Team so much for being patient with me. Today, you should know that the last decision you made for me was a good one and I'll do everything I can to honor that, forever.

Thank you,

-Jacob W. Palmer



Kitsap County Behavioral Health Court Diversion Program

Thursday January 26, 2023

1:15 PM

Kitsap County Administration Building

Commissioner's Chambers and ZOOM

Behavioral Health Court Diversion Program Team

<i>District Court Judge</i>	Hon. Claire Bradley
<i>Deputy Prosecuting Attorney</i>	Alexander Takos
<i>Defense Attorney</i>	David Bruce
<i>Behavioral Health Specialists</i>	Matt Duthie JoAnnia Wahrmond
<i>Compliance Specialist</i>	Leah Gilland
<i>Program Manager</i>	Mindy Nelson-Oakes

I have no words of wisdom, no homily for posterity. Instead I have a rekindled spark...no, a FLAME of life that was all but gone 3 years ago.

This program opened up the world to me again—I'd been drowning in a sea of drugs, alcohol, and misery. I waited patiently in jail for a bed date in treatment and embraced everything BHC, KRC, and KMHS had to offer me.

This program means many things to many people. For me it meant my freedom—free to find out who I am and what I want for myself. I'm a firm believer in you get back what you put out in life and I was more than ready to put out some good juju for a change. BHC gave me confidence in myself, the ability to make boundaries, recognize red flags and act accordingly, and the knowledge that I am ENOUGH.

When I first viewed court to see if I liked what I saw—I observed a woman in Phase 4, dressed nicely, smiling with poise and confidence. I thought to myself I would NEVER be able to achieve that...and today I AM that woman.

I am a walking miracle...thank you BHC for all the support and guidance—I am ready to fly!!

-Jill

Behavioral Health Court Diversion Program Commencement

Welcome and Introduction	Honorable Claire A. Bradley <i>Kitsap County District Court</i>
Guest Speakers	Matt Duthie <i>Behavioral Health Specialist</i>
Presentation of Graduates	Honorable Claire A. Bradley <i>Kitsap County District Court</i>

*Today we celebrate the success of
Jacob Palmer and Jill Bourgeois!!*

RECOVERY

