Accreditation

The OBH Center continues to support the process of OBH/AEE accreditation. Congratulations to those programs who have recently completed their site visits, those who are working through the accreditation process and those programs who have gone through reaccreditation! We currently have 15 accredited programs and hope to continue to add programs in the future. It is great to have OBH representation on the AEE Accreditation Council. Welcome to Alyson Smith Davis from SUWs of the Carolinas as the newest member of the team, joining Sharon Clegg from Wingate. For more information visit: http://www.aee.org/accreditation-council

15 Accredited Programs: As of 2018, we have 15 accredited programs including the Adventure Works, Anasazi Foundation, Aspiro, Elements Wilderness Therapy, Evoke – Cascades, Evoke – Entrada, Legacy Outdoor Adventures, New Vision Wilderness West Coast, Open Sky Wilderness Therapy, Outback Therapeutic Expeditions, Redcliff Ascent, Second Nature, Summit Achievement, SUWS Carolinas & Trails Carolina. For more information visit: https://obhcouncil.com/accreditation/

Conferences

Throughout 2017 and into early 2018, OBH research scientists and affiliated researchers have presented on a variety of topics at numerous conferences across the country and internationally with many more exciting presentations to come in 2018.
Award Winners!

Dr. Ellen Behrens was recently awarded the NATSAP Leadership Award at the NATSAP Annual Conference in Tampa, FL. Her amazing keynote highlighted the power of women leaders in the field.

We thank her for her leadership. She is currently the Chief Editor of the Journal of Therapeutic Schools and Colleges, and a new Board member for the Utah Mental Health Counseling Association.

Dr. Christine Lynn Norton, was awarded the 2017 Association for Experiential Education (AEE)’s Distinguished Researcher Award. Pictured here with Dr. Jim Sibthorp and Dr. Bobbi Beale, AEE Board of Director’s President.

Past Conferences

- National Wilderness Therapy Symposium, Park City, UT. (August, 2017)
- Utah Mental Health Counselor’s Association Mini-Conference, Salt Lake City, UT. (September, 2017)
- Domestic Violence Conference, Vernal, UT. (September, 2017).
- Montana Academy Conference on Immaturity, Character Development and Treatment of Adolescents (October, 2017)
- Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Dallas, TX (October, 2017)
- Association for Experiential Education International Conference, Montreal, Quebec (November, 2017)
- Society for Social Work Research, Washington, DC (January 2018)
- Annual Conference for the National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs, Tampa, FL (February, 2018)

Future Conferences

- Westminster College Career Forum. Salt Lake City, UT. (February, 2018)
- The World Psychiatric Association’s Thematic Congress, Melbourne, Australia (February, 2018)
- Association for Children’s Residential Centers Annual Conference. Boston, MA. (March, 2018)
- Regional Wilderness Therapy Symposium, Asheville, NC. (April, 2018)

Congratulations to Dr. Michael Gass, OBH Center Director on his recent publication of Effective Leadership in Adventure Programming, 3rd Edition.
Research: Internal

2018 has already been an exciting year for OBH Research. First of all, the Golden Thread Project, has been funded with the help of the OBH Council, the National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Colleges (NATSAP), the Therapeutic Consulting Association (TCA) and the International Educational Consulting Association (IECA). The Golden Tread will allow programs, educational consultants, and researchers to follow clients through the continuum of care, which will minimize time spent by clients, parents, and programs on filling out multiple sets of paperwork, as well as allow researchers to see the progress of clients as they move across different programs. For more information on this feel free to contact Mike Petree at mike@remoteresearchdirector.com.

In addition, with the help of Ellen Behrens, John Hall, Anita Tucker, Neal Christenson, Jessa Hobson, Steve Javorski and Mike Petree, as well as input from programs, parents and other researchers, the forms used to collect data from youth, young adults, parents and programs have been revised to better reflect the needs of all involved in the NATSAP Practice Research Network. Please look for this change to be rolled out soon. For more information feel free to contact obhcenter@gmail.com.

Research: External

The OBH Center was happy to facilitate the annual Research Preconference at the 2017 Wilderness Therapy Symposium in Park City, UT. It was exciting to highlight student research this year and engage the participants in fishbowl discussions about practice informed research and research informed practice. Please join Mike Gass and clinicians from OBH programs across the country in Asheville, for the 2nd Annual Case Study Research presentation.
Research: External

In addition, 2017 into 2018 has been a highly productive time for OBH researchers and affiliates. Here are some of our most recent publications. To contact many of the researchers visit: obhcenter.org


OBH In the News

This year has been exciting for the world of Outdoor Behavioral Healthcare with many articles being released highlighting the importance and effectiveness of Wilderness and Adventure Therapy. See the links below for some highlights on OBH In the News:

Why Wilderness Works – Patrick Burns – Psychology Today
https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/brainstorm/201712/why-wilderness-therapy-works

4 Facts you should know about Wilderness Therapy – AEE – Learning through Experience
http://learnthroughexperience.org/blog/4-facts-about-wilderness-therapy/

the Power of Wilderness therapy – Ben Hearn - ACA

Wilderness Therapy Symposium Overview Video featuring members of OBH-C discussing the conference and the importance of WT
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9U0TsG4bDw&t=1s&app=desktop

Video featuring Dr. Christine Norton discussing her experience as a Fulbright Scholar Teaching Adventure Therapy in Taiwan
https://www.facebook.com/FulbrightTaiwan/videos/1831543486886062/