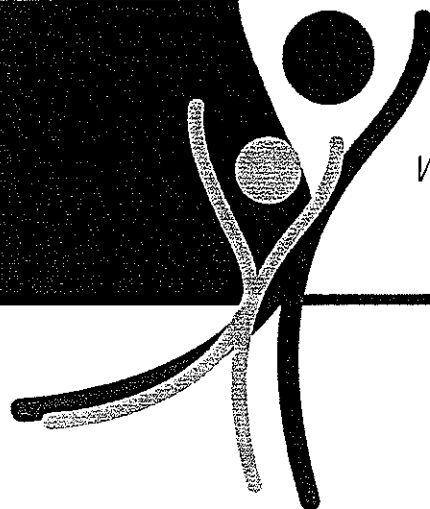


About Us



*Working together to develop and deliver
mental health resources
for Colorado communities.*

CBHC is a non-profit 501(c)3 membership organization that represents Colorado's statewide network of community mental health providers. This includes the 17 community mental health centers (CMHCs), two specialty clinics—Asian Pacific and Servicios de la Raza—and the 5 Behavioral Health Organizations (BHOs) which are the state's Medicaid mental health managed care companies. CBHC member organizations contract with the State of Colorado and work together to provide comprehensive behavioral and psychiatric services to every region of the state.

CBHC works with policy makers and community leaders to enhance the community mental health system and improve the health of Colorado citizens. Each community mental health center provides a comprehensive continuum of outcomes-based, culturally appropriate services in partnership with a range of community organizations that often include:

- Early Childhood/Head Start Centers
- Schools & School-Based Health Centers
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Criminal Justice , Probation & Parole Systems
- Hospitals & Primary Care Facilities
- Social & Human Service Organizations
- Local Police and Law Enforcement
- Other Business and Community Organizations

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Physical Health Care/Mental Health Integration and Coordination

CBHC members throughout the state are working on innovative ways to meet the needs of the community, and to serve people in a system that integrates and coordinates physical and mental health care. In a coordinated system, individual outcomes improve while saving valuable resources. There is a growing need to ensure that services are delivered with efficiency, while providing the necessary quality services required by children and adults with special health care needs. To meet this objective, CBHC members are working to provide or expand current services that include psychiatric consultation to pediatric doctors, integrating services in one location, and to increase coordination between the community mental health center as the 'health care home' with other specialists involved in the individuals care.

Mental Illness and the Criminal Justice System

Colorado is spending more money each year to incarcerate individuals with serious mental illness. The Department of Corrections estimates that nearly 30% of the current inmate population has moderate to severe mental health condition, while over 60% of the population have what is considered a mild to severe need. Without proper treatment, these individuals have a greater likelihood to recidivate and return to jail and prison. Treatment for mental illness and substance use disorders can be effectively treated in the community for much less than the cost of keeping the individual in jail or prison. For this reason, CBHC members are working on innovative jail diversion programs and prison transition options for individuals in need of mental health treatment.

Mental Health Needs of Soldiers and Their Families

When commitments abroad are complete, many service members return to their home community. Some separate from active-duty while the National Guard and Reservists return to civilian jobs. Colorado has several military bases that have deployed soldiers to Iraq and Afghanistan. Upon return, the families often face many readjustment issues in addition to any mental health problems that may be related to the absent spouse, or post traumatic stress disorders (PTSD) related problems for the returning soldier. Despite the care these veterans and their families may receive from the VA and Vet Center facilities, these facilities are often not located in every area of the state and may have long waiting-lists, making it difficult for some veterans and family members to access treatment services. CBHC members are uniquely positioned in every area of the state and would like to have an opportunity to help soldiers and their families that need support up returning to their home community.

Medicaid Mental Health Program Request for Proposals (RFP)

This year, the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Finance (HCPF) is soliciting proposals for the management and operation of the Colorado Medicaid Community Mental Health Services Program. This Program is currently administered by five Behavioral Health Organizations (BHOs) representing five distinctive geographic service areas that cover all of Colorado. The current BHOs contract with the Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs), and other providers in their respective geographical region, is to provide for the mental health needs of the Medicaid population. Medicaid constitutes over 40% of the combined revenue for the CMHCs, who are the mental health safety net in the state. The outcome of who is awarded RFP may have implications on the services to individuals provided through the CMHCs if the contractor does not create similar contractual relationships. There is also concern that if the contract is awarded to out-of-state organizations there would be a number of jobs lost to Colorado. A poll of three BHOs indicated that 150 jobs could be lost. CBHC would like to see these contracts awarded to in-state bidders to protect Colorado jobs, and ensure HCPF takes the steps necessary to protect mental health safety net funding.