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Behavioral Health Transformation in Colorado

Colorado Department of Human Services

Presentation to:

Colorado Legislature
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
House Health and Environment Committee

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Transforming Colorado's behavioral health system.

- In the summer of 2007, the Legislature convened the House Joint Resolution (HJR) 07-1050 Task Force, to examine the behavioral health system in Colorado
- The HJR 07-1050 Task Force developed ten (10) recommendations for creating a more effective, efficient and streamlined behavioral health system

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Leadership...



- In the winter of 2007, Governor Bill Ritter, Jr. called an unprecedented meeting of his relevant Cabinet members to discuss the cross system impacts of mental health and substance abuse (i.e., behavioral health) in Colorado
- Out of this meeting, the Governor authorized the creation of a Behavioral Health Cabinet led by the Executive Directors of the Departments of Corrections, Health Care Policy and Financing (Medicaid Agency), Human Services, Labor and Employment, Local Affairs, Public Health and Environment, and Public Safety

A little help from a federal Transformation Grant.....



- In 2008, Colorado received a federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) "Transformation Transfer Initiative" grant designed to:
 1. Develop a process to secure on-going, meaningful input from consumers, families and community stakeholders on system changes, implementation plans and decisions proposed by the Executive Directors of the involved Departments; and
 2. Facilitate the establishment of an implementation process for the Executive Directors of the involved Departments to approach the integration of the behavioral health system, using the recommendations of the 1050 Task Force as a blueprint

First... planning & prioritization



- Colorado developed a solid planning and implementation process for behavioral health care system transformation, which included:
 1. Surveying more than 500 individuals from multiple sectors
 2. Resulting in the following priorities:
 - a. Addressing the high-risk/high need population
 - b. Reducing recidivism in the criminal justice population
 - c. Improving prevention and intervention services provided to young people under the age of 26
 - d. Ensuring the sustainability of this statewide initiative

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Sustaining the focus on behavioral health transformation



- Senate Bill 10-153:
 1. Created a policy framework for behavioral health transformation in Colorado including principles, goals and a mechanism to accomplish this work
 2. Established a Behavioral Health Transformation Council in statute to advise and inform the work of the Executive Directors of the involved Departments

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Creating the Behavioral Health Transformation Council (BHTC):



- Membership
 1. Representation from the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches of Government
 2. Consumers and family members who use behavioral health services
 3. Behavioral health provider and advocacy networks
 4. Balanced representation from substance use disorder and mental health stakeholder communities
- September 24, 2010: First meeting of BHTC
- April 2011: BHTC Strategic Planning Conference
- June 22, 2011: BHTC By-Laws implemented

BHTC Priorities



- Improving behavioral health prevention and early intervention services
- Improving services to the high-risk/high need populations (i.e., improving the systems of care)
- Reducing recidivism in the criminal justice population
- Core principles and drivers for BHTC initiatives
 1. HJR 07-1050 recommendations
 2. National Health Care Reform
 3. Consumer and Family Focused
 4. Effective, Efficient, Elegant

BHTC Accomplishments



- Published Behavioral Health High Utilizers Report (handout)
- Developed and implemented a policy to streamline behavioral health paperwork for CMHCs and BHOs
- Implemented Supported Employment Initiative: increased employment and education opportunities for individuals with serious mental illness
- Submitted a fully integrated federal substance abuse and mental block grant application: Colorado's strategic plan for the public behavioral health system
- Began the consolidation of state licensure of mental health and substance abuse facility agencies
- Developed a work force plan for Peer Specialists/ Recovery Coaches/Family Advocates
- Obtained a Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment II grant to further dissemination
- Obtained a System of Care Infrastructure Planning Grant

System of Care



- Colorado was one of twenty-four sites across the nation awarded a System of Care Expansion Planning Grant
- Colorado will develop a comprehensive short and long-term strategic plan for improving and expanding services provided through systems of care for children and adolescents with serious emotional disturbance (SED) and their families
- Multi-system design team which is linked to the BHTC to develop and approve Colorado's plan
- Seven Communities of Excellence to develop community level plans and serve as models for the state

The Kahle Family Story

Experiences with the System of Care

Transformation in Practice: Present and Future



- Current efforts are underway to continue the priorities of the Hickenlooper administration in supporting the success of all Coloradans:
 1. Winnable Battles – Partnership with CDPHE/HCPF/CDHS
 2. Trauma Informed Care – Partnership with the Offices of Behavioral Health (OBH) and Children, Youth and Families (CYF)
 3. Adolescent Behavioral Health – Partnership with the OBH and CYF
 4. Integration of Behavioral Health and Physical Health
 5. Colorado Mental Health Institutes

Coordination with other state efforts



- As the lead entity for behavioral health, the BHTC is collaborating with existing statewide health care implementation and transformation efforts:
 1. Health Care Reform Oversight Group
 2. Centers for Improving Value in Health Care (CIVHC);
 3. Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council
 4. Colorado Regional Health Information Organization (COHRIO)
 5. Colorado PICS (Finance Reform)
 6. Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ);
Recidivism Reduction
 7. Behavioral Health Workforce Development Initiative

This is an exciting time...



- Colorado is well positioned to implement Health Care Reform
- However, Health Care Reform includes many unanswered questions and there is a lot of work to be done to ensure the appropriate provision of consumer-centered services for Colorado citizens, especially in the behavioral health arena
- The Behavioral Health Transformation Council hopes to provide meaningful targeted input into Health Care Reform implementation and the agenda of the Governor's Administration

Questions.....



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