

## CBHC 2025 Policy Platform

### *Mend the Safety Net – Fund the Safety Net*

Well-intended reforms to the structure and financing of Colorado's behavioral health safety net system risk inadvertently weakening the system at a time of growing need. The state's structural budget deficit and uncertainty about potential federal actions compound the challenges. These realities inform CHBC's policy platform for not only the 2025 legislative session, but the foreseeable future. They translate to the following priorities. While some of these can be addressed through the regulatory process, several recommendations may require statutory change.

#### *Mend the Safety Net*

- Strengthen connections between the civil commitment system, law enforcement, criminal justice and outpatient care; fill the gaps between inpatient and community treatment.
- Enable community behavioral health providers to serve high-risk clients while protecting the safety of their staff, their facilities, and other clients and community members.
- Thoughtfully evolve the regulatory structure for comprehensive behavioral health providers so it balances accountability and transparency with appropriate oversight and does not inadvertently adversely affect client experience and access to care.

#### *Fund the Safety Net*

- Protect existing Medicaid behavioral health funding levels if the state's budget deficit does not allow for increases. Ensure that progress on coverage and critical benefits for behavioral health are not rolled back.
- Ensure that the state's new behavioral health system is funded adequately.
  - Support the BHA in studying the cost of the new system and developing an appropriate funding model based on the study's recommendations.
  - Ensure that funding is prioritized for direct services and that Colorado is making efficient use of funding for administrative purposes.
  - If the state's budget deficit does not allow for funding increases, work with agencies to identify ways for current budgets to go further.
- Ensure all who qualify for Medicaid are enrolled.
  - Enable comprehensive behavioral health providers to become Medicaid enrollment sites.
- Maximize federal funds.
  - Work with HCPF and BHA to capitalize on the opportunity to draw down enhanced federal Medicaid match through the Certified Community Behavioral Healthcare Clinic model.
  - Partner with HCPF, BHA, the Governor's office, state legislators, and the Colorado congressional delegation to protect Colorado's Medicaid system from any federal funding or program changes that would jeopardize funding or eligibility.

For more information:

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