

## ***Certified Community Behavioral Healthcare Clinics (CCBHC)***

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On December 31, HCPF received the good news from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) that Colorado has been awarded a one-year, \$1 million grant to develop a plan for implementing the Certified Community Behavioral Healthcare Clinic (CCBHC) federal demonstration model in Colorado.

Legislators directed HCPF to apply for this grant through HB 24-1384, so they have an interest and a role to play in ensuring that the stakeholder process results in a robust implementation plan that will effectively align Colorado's safety net behavioral health system with the evidence-based CCBHC model.

Eight safety net providers in Colorado have qualified as CCBHCs over the past six years through a separate SAMHSA grant program. The five that have been in the program the longest have collectively demonstrated significant improvements for their clients, including more than 67% reduction in emergency department use, nearly 50% reduction in symptoms of psychological distress, over 40% improvement in daily functioning and other impressive outcomes. Those CCBHCs have also been able to hire new staff and implement new systems to significantly improve access to care.

### CBHC Priorities for CCBHC

- Ensure that Colorado's CCBHC implementation plan demonstrates fidelity to the evidence-based national model, especially regarding the payment approach and expectations of providers.
- Align current Medicaid Prospective Payment System (PPS) with CCBHC PPS.
  - CBHC has developed a crosswalk of the two formulas to assist with this work and has offered it to HCPF and BHA.
- Align current regulatory structure for safety net providers with CCBHC requirements.
  - While Colorado's behavioral health reforms in HB 22-1278 were based in part on CCBHC requirements, there are places where they differ. **We ask that the state develop, with assistance from subject matter experts at the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, a crosswalk of these requirements and plan to alter existing safety net requirements to align with CCBHC's rules.**
- Align existing Colorado Medicaid quality reporting measures/requirements with CCBHC requirements.
  - CCBHC uses an evidence-based set of quality measures from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the National Commission on Quality Assurance. These metrics have been demonstrated over the years to meaningfully illustrate impacts on patient access and outcomes. **We ask that the state distill its Medicaid reporting requirements down to this list.**
- Integrate CCBHC Standards into Colorado's coordinated crisis system to enhance access, quality, and outcomes
  - **Expand Crisis Capacity:** Leverage the CCBHC model to strengthen the crisis system's infrastructure, including mobile crisis teams, crisis stabilization units, and partnerships with law enforcement and EMS.
  - **Align Metrics:** Ensure that the CCBHC implementation plan incorporates evidence-based crisis performance metrics, aligning state reporting requirements with CCBHC's quality measures. This helps demonstrate effectiveness in crisis response and patient outcomes.
  - **Sustain Funding for Crisis Care:** Advocate for sustainable funding mechanisms through PPS model options that support crisis services as a core part of CCBHCs.
  - **Streamline Regulations:** Work with HCPF and BHA to align crisis-specific regulatory requirements with CCBHC rules, ensuring seamless integration and reducing provider burden.

### Our Ask of Legislators

- Encourage HCPF to implement a meaningful stakeholder process that includes opportunities to work directly with subject matter experts—not simply to hold public forums to hear from interested parties.
- Require monthly updates from HCPF to the House and Senate committees of reference, as well as JBC, on the progress toward developing the implementation plan, with special attention paid to the priorities listed above.