



CBHC Position on Healthcare Reform and Integration

Approved CBHC Board of Directors May 2010

Core Principles:

- The goals of healthcare reform should be to:
 - Improve the health of the population;
 - Enhance the patient experience of care (including quality, access, and reliability); and
 - Reduce, or at least control, the per capita cost of care.
- *Good mental health is a core component of health and wellness for everyone.* A first step in moving towards a fully integrated healthcare system is to better and more fully integrate substance use and mental health services
- Colorado's community mental health system should be utilized as experts in behavior change to promote overall health outcomes
- Through patient-centered, community-based healthcare reform at the local level we can lead reform at the state level and influence healthcare reform at the national level.
- Development of integrated service delivery systems begins with providing mental and physical health services in both settings.
- Healthcare reform and integrated services must ensure equality in access to appropriate and high quality health care for all
- Community Mental Health Centers and Clinics (CMHC) may serve as the healthcare home of choice for adults with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbance.
- The cost of healthcare can be reduced if the mental health and substance use treatment needs of the population are addressed in conjunction with their physical healthcare needs.
- A transformed health care delivery system will integrate services and preserve or expand mental health and substance use prevention and treatment funding to ensure access to and effective delivery of these services.

- Services should be integrated at the point of delivery, actively involve patients as partners in their care, and be coordinated with other community resources.
- Technology and health information exchange should be used to enhance services and support the highest quality services and health outcomes.
- The healthcare workforce needs to be expanded and trained to meet the diverse needs of an integrated service delivery system
- A transformed healthcare delivery system must align policy, strategic goals, rules and regulations, funding and practice.
- A carved-out mental health system that is focused on integrating service delivery with both healthcare and human services that protects behavioral health funding has been shown to lead to greater access, higher utilization and more cost effective services.
- The carved-out BHO system serves as a model for regional service delivery and management of payment and benefits
- CMHC's and BHO's are leaders in their local community and at the state level and are essential in establishing a vision for mental health and substance use services in a reformed health delivery system.

Payment Reform

- Mechanisms need to be in place in the public and private sectors to pay for the entire continuum of behavioral and physical health services in both physical and mental health settings.
- Adequate payment is necessary to support an integrated delivery system for both mental and physical health
- Current funding streams need to be modified where necessary to support a reformed delivery system.

Role of CMHCs and BHOs in Future Healthcare Reform

- BHO's and CMHC's each play a critical role in the future of healthcare reform
- Leverage their success and experience with managed care
- Solidify and demonstrate that CMHC's are patient-centered healthcare homes
- Promote the success of the BHOs and CMHCs working in partnership with shared goals and incentives as a model to further achieve integrated service delivery and healthcare reform in Colorado

- Engage and lead in local and regional efforts to integrate healthcare
- Support and lead a vision for state-wide reform with local solutions
- Provide community-based solutions along the entire continuum of services in a population based approach to care.
- Lead development and implementation of outcome measures that demonstrate success, value and best practices across the state.
- Demonstrate commitment to continuous quality improvement and innovation

CBHC's Role

- Advocate for a reformed healthcare delivery system for Colorado that includes mental health and substance use treatment as essential to overall health and wellness.
- Actively work together with other organizations that demonstrate commitment to service integration.
- Engage at the State and National level in collaborations, innovations, policy development, and legislative efforts that are dedicated to improving care and integrating mental health and substance use into overall healthcare.
- Expand collaborations with other community and healthcare stakeholders, including health plans.
- Provide communication, educational information, and training to its members and other stakeholders regarding an integrated service delivery system that includes mental health and substance use treatment as a part of healthcare.
- Support the message/value of integration at the local, state, and national levels.
- Pursue a full substance abuse benefit for Medicaid to be managed by the BHOs