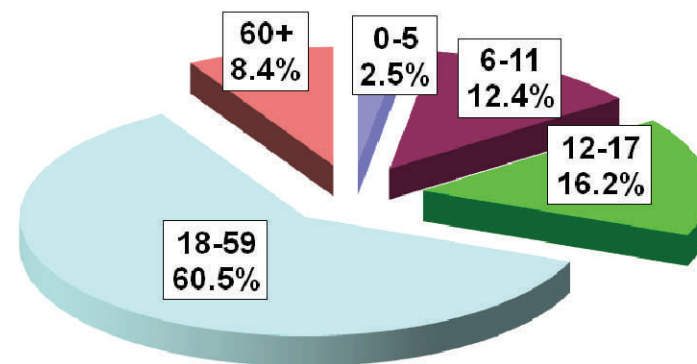


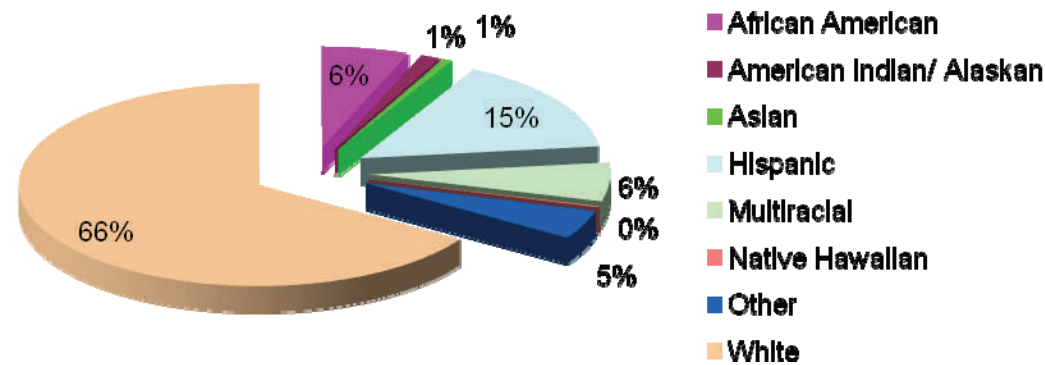
Community Mental Health Centers served over 105,000 unduplicated consumers in FY'09-'10

During the 1st half of FY10-11, CMHCs have seen a 57% increase over FY09-10 numbers of services provided to those enrolled in Children's Health Plan Plus (CHP+)

FY'09-'10 CMHC Data - Age



FY'09-'10 CMHC Data - Ethnicity



CMHCs have seen an increase of approximately 20% in service delivery over the previous year.

CMHCs serve a wide variety of populations & provide a multitude of services which include case management, individual & group therapy, medication management, jail diversion programs, and substance use disorder treatment. The services provided at CMHCs allow consumers & their families to receive appropriate treatment & recovery services to meet their needs.

Goals & Priorities

- Developing integrated service delivery systems with mental health/substance use & other health systems.
- Full & comprehensive mental health & substance use disorder benefits that include screening, prevention, & early intervention.
- A carved out mental health system focused on integrating service delivery with both healthcare & human services while protecting behavioral health funding .
- Technology & health information exchanges are best used to enhance & support the highest quality services & health outcomes.
- Transforming the healthcare delivery system to align policies, strategic goals, rules, regulations, funding, & practice.
- Expanding treatment services to individuals in the criminal justice system

Behavioral Health Organizations (BHOs) are the state's Medicaid mental health managed care companies & last year they managed a pool of 531,000 Medicaid eligible consumers.

Behavioral Health Organizations' per capita costs have declined over 11% in the past 3 years **saving the state over \$31 million a year.**

Criminal Justice Quick Facts

- 65% of all US inmates meet the medical criteria for drug and/or alcohol addiction.
- Every \$1 spent on treatment provides a taxpayer return of \$7 compared to a return of 40 cents for every \$1 spent on incarceration.
- The percentage of people with serious mental illnesses has more than doubled between 1990 and 2008 and has continued to grow to approximately 19% of the total prison population.
- Appropriate treatment is effective in reducing recidivism.



Comprehensive Coverage for Behavioral Health

Most people do not have adequate coverage for behavioral healthcare services, meaning mental health & substance use disorder treatment. Despite progress at both the state & federal level, many Coloradans do not have access to comprehensive healthcare services.

Unfortunately, the behavioral health system has historically been grossly underfunded leaving a large unmet need. With the ongoing economic situation in Colorado, more people are suffering from the emotional strain of unemployment & economic instability, resulting in an increased and ongoing need for behavioral health services.

Providing adequate behavioral health coverage & benefits to ensure community-based access to services is not only essential in creating a healthy community, but also saves the state and local governments money from the inappropriate use of services in emergency rooms and reliance on the criminal justice system.

Colorado's community mental health centers, clinics, and behavioral health organizations are continuing to work with local partners to develop innovative approaches to provide wellness programs & create opportunities to ensure the behavioral healthcare needs of families & individuals are met.



CBHC membership serves as the behavioral healthcare safety net for a large portion of Coloradans whose numbers continue to increase.

Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council

The Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council (CBHC) is a non-profit 501(c)3 membership organization that represents Colorado's statewide network of community mental health providers, which includes 17 community mental health centers (CMHCs), 2 specialty clinics – Asian Pacific Development Center & Servicios de la Raza - and the 5 Behavioral Health Organizations (BHOs).



CBHC 2011 Behavioral Health Platform

Dear Legislator:

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Colorado's Community Mental Health System is actively working to meet the diverse needs of people who need mental health and substance use treatment in the community, while continuing to build a vision for the future of healthcare delivery. Today's challenging economic environment means healthcare providers need to be innovative, collaborative and frugal to ensure that the necessary treatment and supports are available to those who need mental health and substance abuse treatment services.

In tough budgetary times it is crucial that the new administration, legislators, employers, and the public understand the importance of not reducing coverage for people who need behavioral health services. Reduced funding for necessary treatment and prevention restricts access to care, forces people into more expensive systems, and significantly increases overall health care costs.

2003 and 2004 saw major cuts to mental health and substance use disorder treatment funding. The end result was that prisons, jails, homeless shelters, and emergency rooms suffered a huge influx in the number of people with untreated mental health and substance abuse disorders taking up their available beds. Treating people in these more expensive settings comes with a huge financial and personal cost. Additionally, recent studies show that costs almost double to treat a physical health condition if the person also has an untreated mental health or substance use disorder. These facts cannot be ignored.

Behavioral health is essential health care and providers can save the State precious resources, as well as improve both outcomes and satisfaction for those we serve. CBHC is here to help educate you about the behavioral health system in Colorado and our ongoing role in the evolution of healthcare in this state. We hope you'll support behavioral health in your important public policy decisions, and we encourage you to visit www.cbhc.org and contact us to learn how you too can help affect positive change.

Thank you for your time and please contact us if you have any questions ~

George DelGrosso, Executive Director

