

West Slope Casa

SB 202

Community Action Plan

March 1, 2017

West Slope Casa (WSC) is the Managed Service Organization (MSO) for SSPA 5 & SSPA 6. Our providers cover Colorado from Frisco west to Utah and from New Mexico in the south to Wyoming in the north. While there are urban centers within this vast area, most of the region is rural and frontier. This combination of a vast area and greatly differing population densities creates significant challenges in serving the Substance Use Disorder population

Community Assessment – Summary and Comments

As required by SB 202, West Slope Casa (in conjunction with the other MSOs) contracted with Keystone Policy Center to complete a Community Assessment to determine the service gaps and needs along with the funding priorities around Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services. The assessment may be found at <http://www.cbhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/SB202-SUD-final-1.pdf>.

Keystone Policy Center undertook numerous key stakeholder interviews (more than two dozen in our area), held community stakeholder meetings and reached out to still others via Survey Monkey (more than two hundred in WSC’s region). The results specific to the WSC area SSPA 5 (covering from Montrose south) are on pages 20-21 of the assessment and WSC area SSPA 6 (covering the northern half of the Western Slope) are on pages 22-23 and are summarized below. It is interesting to note that the priorities listed in the Needs/Gaps section are significantly different from the Priorities for Funding. The Priorities in Funding list was generated in community meetings which were smaller groups and less broad than the stakeholders involved in the Needs/Gaps data gathering which was the result of the key informant interviews and the Survey Monkey surveys.

Need, Gaps and Funding Priorities

Needs, gaps and funding priorities identified by the Community assessment:

West Slope Casa
 SB 202 Community Assessment
 Gaps, Needs and funding priorities

Item	Gap/Need Ranking SSPA 5	Gap/Need Ranking SSPA 6	Funding Priority SSPA 5	Funding Priority SSPA 6
Workforce shortage	1	1	4*	1
Increased training in Evidenced based and trauma informed care	2	2	4*	
Case or care management - including assist with transitions	3	3	6	

Sustainable funding in rural areas	4	7	1	
Continuum of housing options	5	8	3	
Transportation to and from treatment and recovery-oriented programs	6	9	7	
Residential Treatment	7		2	6
Intensive Outpatient Services	8	11		4
Prevention including early intervention	9	12		
Detox services/facilities with a medical component	10	13	5	5
Addressing the festival culture	11			
Better access to care that reflects the cultural of the region	12			
More flexibility in state and local funds to better meet community needs		5	8	
Better information and data sharing between those serving individuals with SUD		4		7
Crisis service alternatives and stabilization		6		2
Affordability of treatment		10		3
Systems for high utilizers		14		8

* These two items were combined in the funding ranking exercise

With fourteen different need/gaps and funding priorities identified, it is clearly impossible to address all of them with the available funding of \$745,155 (through June 2018). Some of the needs, such as detox and residential care, are very expensive projects to undertake (ranging from hundreds of thousands to a million dollars). Detox (withdrawal management) services range from ambulatory care, through the popular Clinically Managed, Medium Intensity Residential Treatment (social detox), up to Medical Detox with 24/7 doctor and nursing staff. While every county would like a detox facility in their area, there simply is not enough funding to do so. Given the very expensive real estate prices in many of our locales, a continuum of housing options is another example of a need that is beyond the capacity of this funding.

While workforce shortage is identified as a very high priority, this is a complex, state wide (and national) challenge that is both expensive and beyond the funding scope of SB 202. While there are multiple organizations (including the Behavioral Health transformation Council and the Office of Behavioral Health) addressing this issue, next steps are not clear. One of the reasons workforce is so important is that it directly effects the ability to implement most programs. Recruiting, and retaining, the numbers of staff required for programs like detox, residential treatment and housing is almost impossible given the work force shortage that exists nationally. There are some great examples of western slope leaders partnering with schools such as Denver University to start extension sites (one in Durango and one in Glenwood Springs) to help provide local educational opportunities.

Sustainability in the long term is also a challenge. While specific services are needed in a community, there may not consistently be the sufficient ongoing flow of referrals needed to sustain a program over time. This is particularly true for bringing expanded services to our rural and frontier communities. Additionally, funding sustainability is also a question as currently funds are available through June 2018.

Calling on our providers for their local expertise, West Slope Casa sought program proposals to meet the local needs. With approximately \$745,000 available through June 2018, we received proposals for almost \$2,000,000. Following a lengthy discussion, the WSC Board decided to focus on funding sustainability and expansion programs in the areas of detox, residential care, serving the homeless population and expanding jail based services. Pending approval from the state Office of Behavioral Health, following are the plans:

- The Center for Mental Health is developing an integrated program that will include detox and crisis respite.
- Mind Springs Health is working with the Vail community to restart a detox facility there. A number of options including ambulatory detox, social detox and limited medical care are all being considered. While WSC is willing to contribute a specified amount, the decision on the program will rest on the ability of the community to contribute.
- Should detox development efforts not succeed, Mind Springs Health will focus on expanding jail based services.
- WSC is also providing some funding to the Aspen detox (open less than a year) to help provide sustainability.
- Axis Health System is being funded to sustain their homeless population programs. These programs were included in the initial program funding under SB 202.
- A pool of money is set aside to provide residential treatment for those who cannot afford it otherwise. Specific allocations are made to the programs in both the southern (Peaceful Spirit program) and northern areas (Women's Recovery Center and Summit View).

Going forward, West Slope Casa will be monitoring these funded programs. We will be developing proposals to meet addition gaps and needs with future years' funding as well as using the Community Assessment data to help make decisions on the use of other funding streams that may come available.