SBIRT-SBHC Project

A collaborative project to serve adolescents in school-based health centers

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SBIRT stands for Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment. SBIRT is a research-based approach to the identification of risky alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and other substance use and provides intervention and referral to treatment to those at risk of developing substance use problems. The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) - Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) has allocated a portion of the federal substance abuse block grant funding for SBIRT services for school-aged adolescents. The funding is administered through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to CDPHE-funded school-based health centers (SBHCs) around Colorado. SBHCs are convenient clinics that offer integrated healthcare to children and youth either in a school or on school grounds. SBHCs have primary care providers such as doctors, nurse practitioners and physician assistants, as well as mental health and substance abuse providers.

OBH has committed to funding the SBIRT-SBHC Project for five years (September 2017 through August 2022) with an annual budget of $1,286,000. The primary objective of this effort is to institutionalize SBIRT as a standard of care into existing CDPHE-funded SBHCs voluntarily participating in this project. This SBIRT project funding will support SBHCs across the state with:

- Providing SBIRT universally and addressing student needs to reduce harms associated with alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, as well as commonly reported mental health concerns.
- Reducing health disparities that impact youth substance misuse by applying Enhanced Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards.
- Developing and implementing of SBIRT curricula, including training, technical assistance and evaluation components.

More information about the the SBIRT-SBHC Project is available on the project webpage: https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/sbhc-sbirt; including Steering Committee membership and notes, a recently completed (May 2018) Needs and Readiness Assessment for the SBIRT-SBHC project and additional adolescent-focused SBIRT resources.

To learn more about this interagency collaboration, contact:

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