



What is Connections

Connections is an innovative, convenient and consumer-friendly center offering one-stop answers, options, and support for mental health and substance abuse needs. It is a collaborative effort of the Health District of Northern Larimer County and SummitStone Health Partners, both of which contribute staff and funding.

Free Services provided by Connections

- Needs assessment
- Information on mental health and substance abuse
- Referral to mental health and substance abuse resources
- Help connecting to affordable services
- Crisis intervention
- Care coordination
- Consumer advocacy

Philosophy

Connections aims to reduce barriers to receiving mental health and substance abuse care, simplify access to services, and provide immediate access to information that consumers need. Services provided by Connections will focus on the unique needs of each consumer, build on consumer strengths, and will involve consumers in all aspects of decision-making about their care. Staff will aim to provide consumers with as much information and as many options as possible. The Connections program was designed with input from consumers, service providers, and other community representatives.

Staffing

Connections is staffed by master level mental health specialists who answer all incoming phone calls and meet one-on-one with people in need of services. Care Coordination services are also available on site.

Who we serve

Connections serves all of Larimer County, and works with people of all ages. Spanish-speaking staff and services are available. Connections has services appropriate for everyone, regardless of ability to pay, insurance coverage, or severity of issue.

How consumers can access services

- In person, either walk-in or by appointment, at 425 W. Mulberry Street in Fort Collins, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- By telephone, at 970-221-5551, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. After-hours crisis services are available by phone at 970-221-2114.
- On the Internet at www.mentalhealthconnections.org. A searchable database of mental health counselors, programs, support groups and classes is available.

Background

Connections grew from work by the Community-wide Mental Health and Substance Abuse Partnership of Larimer County. A comprehensive report issued by the partnership in 2001 called for the creation of an improved, integrated and comprehensive information and referral system for mental health and substance abuse. Subsequent discussion by the partnership's Information and Referral Subcommittee resulted in the Health District and SummitStone Health Partners combining and enhancing their respective mental health/substance abuse services to create Connections.