**Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) Overview**

CCBHCs, first introduced federally under Section 223 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) of 2014 (Public Law 113-93), provide a robust range of mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services to vulnerable individuals. National research has found that since the advent of the demonstration program CCBHCs have dramatically increased access to mental health and SUD treatment, supported behavioral health provider workforce development, expanded capacity to address the opioid crisis and other SUDs, and established innovative partnerships with law enforcement and hospitals to improve care and reduce recidivism and readmissions.

Like federally qualified health centers, (FQHCs), CCBHCs are required to provide a federally defined array of services, with an emphasis on the utilization of evidence-based practices. These include:

* Crisis mental health services including 24-hour mobile crisis teams, emergency crisis intervention and crisis stabilization
* Screening, assessment, and diagnosis
* Patient-centered treatment planning
* Outpatient mental health and substance use disorder services
* Primary care screening and monitoring
* Targeted case management
* Psychiatric rehabilitation services
* Peer support services and family support services
* Services for members of the armed services and Veterans.

Additionally, CCBHCs must serve all clients regardless of ability to pay, and adhere to rigorous, uniform data collection requirements that demonstrate value. CCBHCs in demonstration states receive an enhanced Medicaid reimbursement rate, while other CCBHC clinics are awarded competitive grant funding through the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). There are now 431 CCBHC sites nationwide.

While Colorado is not participating in the federal demonstration, four of the 17 community mental health centers in the state have been awarded SAMHSA CCBHC grant funds. These centers are leading the way towards statewide adoption of a model of care based on the federal demonstration, in exchange for an alternative payment methodology that better supports population health and value-based care.

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| **Community Mental Health Center** | **RAE Region** |
| Aurora Mental Health Center | Region 3, Colorado Access |
| Mental Health Partners | Region 6, CCHA |
| North Range Behavioral Health | Region 2, Northeast Health Partners |
| Southeast Health Group | Region 4, Health Colorado |

All four centers are participating in the CCBHC Learning Collaborative (the Collaborative), which is facilitated by Third Horizon Strategies (THS) under a contract with Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council. The Collaborative convenes monthly to share best practices and lessons learned, and to collectively problem solve. Members also receive individualized leadership and strategy coaching monthly from THS.

CCBHC funding is enabling each of the four centers to expand access to care in their local communities and enhance their service delivery and quality improvement. Some notable achievements to date include:

* Southeast Health Group developed community-specific programs, including specialized services for Veterans through the six county Veterans Services Officers. They have also focused outreach for agricultural communities through their local Ag Advisory Council.  In addition, they have expanded cultural competency throughout the organization by augmenting training for all staff.
* Mental Health Partners strengthened their continuum of care by implementing new intensive outpatient programs, expanding integrated care programs, and creating a Community Health Worker (CHW) program. CHWs conduct proactive outreach to engage current and new clients in care and assist them in accessing other needed community supports. Read more here: <https://www.mhpcolorado.org/community-health-workers/>
* Mental Health Partners has begun statistical analyses of behavioral health outcomes using the National Outcome Measures set (NOMS). In an initial analysis, 54 percent of clients experienced a decrease in psychiatric distress. Analyses revealed a statistically significant reduction in psychiatric distress scores overall, with a small but notable effect size which indicates that this decrease is not simply due to chance (p<0.0003, d=0.2205).
* Aurora Mental Health Center is expanding their new employee orientation and employee training program that focuses on trauma-informed, culturally responsive person-centered care, as well as developing additional training to increase SUD capacity and expertise.
* North Range Behavioral Health is working to increase same day access to care and enhance services for underserved populations. They are also increasing center-wide data collection and quality improvement efforts and will utilize the National Outcome Measures Scale (NOMS) for all new clients.

**Additional Information and Resources**

CCBHC Criteria: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs_campaigns/ccbhc-criteria.pdf>

FY 2021 CCBHC Grants: <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements-2021>

National Council for Mental Well Being 2021 CCBHC Impact Report:

<https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/052421_CCBHC_ImpactReport_2021_Final.pdf?daf=375ateTbd56>

GAO 2021 CCBHC Report to Congress: <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-21-394.pdf>

Third Horizon Strategies is a Chicago-based, boutique advisory firm focused on shaping a future system that actualizes a sustainable culture of health nationwide. The firm offers a 360º view of complex challenges across three horizons – past, present, and future– to help industry leaders and policymakers interpret signals and trends; design integrated systems; and enact changes so that all communities, families, and individuals can thrive. For more information visit <https://thirdhorizonstrategies.com> or contact Mindy Klowden, MNM, Senior Director at (303) 884-2670 or Mindy@thirdhorizonstrategies.com.