



CBHC

Colorado Behavioral
Healthcare Council

2026 CBHC Behavioral Health Conference



Meeting the Moment for Communities

Real people. Real places. Real solutions - together.



September 30 - October 3, 2026

Beaver Run Resort & Conference Center | Breckenridge, Colorado



Welcome to the 2026 Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council (CBHC) Annual Conference:
Meeting the Moment for Communities.

Across Colorado, behavioral health providers, community partners, policymakers, advocates, and people with lived experience are navigating a period of profound change. Demand for services continues to grow. Systems are evolving. Expectations are increasing. And every day, communities are asking more of the behavioral health safety net. Yet if there is one thing this field has consistently demonstrated, it is the ability to adapt, collaborate, and respond when it matters most. This year's theme reflects both the realities and responsibilities of behavioral health work in Colorado today. Meeting the moment is not the responsibility of any single organization, sector, or role. It is collective work rooted in coordination, trust, shared accountability, and a commitment to ensuring that individuals, families, and communities can access the care and support they need.

During this conference, we invite you to engage in conversations that are grounded in real-world practice and current conditions. This year's program reflects the daily experiences of providers and partners across Colorado, balancing clinical expertise, operational realities, and system-level coordination. You will hear from peers navigating similar constraints, explore what it takes to sustain services under pressure, and examine how collaboration can be strengthened across systems even in challenging environments.

Across sessions, you will find a focus on practical insight and applied learning, highlighting what it means to stabilize the safety net, improve coordination across systems, and adapt care models in ways that are responsive to community needs. Rather than abstract or theoretical discussion, this conference centers real experience, real adaptation, and real lessons learned.

We are grateful to the providers, advocates, policymakers, community leaders, and experts who make up Colorado's behavioral health system. Your work is essential to sustaining care across the state, and your commitment continues to shape a system that strives toward accessibility, responsiveness, and integrity.

We hope you leave this conference with new ideas, practical strategies, and stronger connections to the broader community of leaders and professionals doing this work alongside you. The challenges before us are significant, but so is the collective expertise, commitment, and innovation represented here. Meeting the moment is the work of a community.

Thank you for being here. Thank you for the work you do every day on behalf of Colorado's communities. And thank you for helping ensure that, together, we continue to meet the moment.

Kara L. Johnson-Hufford, MPA
Chief Executive Officer
Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council

Mandy Kaisner, LPC
Conference Chair
CEO/President, Solvista Health



CBHC Awards Presentations | *(Breckenridge Ballroom)*

Thursday | Mental Health First Aid Awards | **8:45am - 9:00am**

Friday | Golden Abacus & Golden Lightbulb Awards | **8:45am - 9:00am**

Friday | Behavioral Health Legislative Champion Awards | **9:00am - 9:15am**

Keynotes



Thursday | 9:00am - 10:30am | *(Breckenridge Ballroom)*

Meeting the Moment: Moving Beyond Coping to Build Resilient, Connected Communities | *Johnny Crowder*



Friday | 9:15am - 10:30am | *(Breckenridge Ballroom)*

Adaptive Leadership in Complex and Uncertain Times: The Power of Mindset and Resilience
Amer Kaissi, PhD

CBHC & Membership Org Board Members Only | Half-Day Event

(Imperial Ballroom)

CBHC Annual Board Meeting | Friday 12:00pm - 12:30pm

Membership Orgs & CBHC Awards Lunch | Friday 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Membership Orgs & CBHC Board Session | Friday 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Federal Policy in Motion: HRI, Medicaid Budget Pressures and Work Requirements in Colorado's Behavioral Health System

Membership Orgs & CBHC Board Reception | Friday 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Networking Reception

Thursday Evening | **5:15pm - 6:30pm** | *(Colorado Ballroom)*

Gather for our Networking Reception with appetizers and cash bar.

Sponsored by



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Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council

Meeting the Moment for Communities

Pre-Conference Workshops | Wednesday, September 30, 2026

#1 Pre-Con Workshop: \$60 | Behavioral Health Trainings: Building the Future of Prevention, Education, and Community Impact | [Details](#)

#2 Pre-Con Workshop: \$170 | Meeting the Moment With AI: A Practical Playbook for Behavioral Health Leaders and Clinicians | [*Jonathan Liebert, MA*](#)

(Wednesday | 8:00am - 4:00pm | Includes training, breakfast, lunch, and coffee breaks)
(Note: Pre-Conference workshop fees are separate from conference fees shown below)

CBHC 2026 Conference Registration Fees

Full Conference | \$500 per person

Thursday/Friday/Saturday | (Thursday 7:45am - Saturday 11:00am)

(Includes Thursday networking reception, all conference sessions, breakfasts, lunches, and coffee breaks)

#1 Pre-Conference Workshop + Full Conference | \$560 per person

Wednesday/Thursday/Friday/Saturday | (Wednesday 8:00am - Saturday 11:00am)

(Includes Wednesday and all Thursday-Saturday sessions, breakfasts, lunches, and coffee breaks)

#2 Pre-Conference Workshop + Full Conference | \$670 per person

Wednesday/Thursday/Friday/Saturday | (Wednesday 8:00am - Saturday 11:00am)

(Includes Wednesday and all Thursday-Saturday sessions, breakfasts, lunches, and coffee breaks)

Credits | Up to 19 CEU Credits from NASW & NAADAC

**Hotel room block
open now
Reserve your room**

**Visit to learn more
about CBHC
cbhc.org**

**Register Now!
Click the link below
[CBHC 2026](#)**

CBHC Conference Cancellation/Refund Policy

Conference registration fees will be refunded upon written notice of cancellation if received no later than August 1, 2026.

Questions: Contact Tracy O'Shaughnessy
Tracyhmsr@gmail.com or call 303-525-2811

CBHC Members

Thank You Member Organizations!

Aurora Mental Health and Recovery

Centennial Mental Health Center

Clinica Family Health and Wellness

Community Reach Center

Crossroads Turning Points

Diversus Health

Health Solutions

Health Solutions West

Jefferson Center for Mental Health

Mile High Behavioral Healthcare

North Range Behavioral Health

San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group

Solvista Health

SummitStone Health Partners

Valley-Wide Health Systems

WellPower

2026 CBHC Conference

Planning Committee

Mandy Kaisner, LPC

Conference Chair

Chief Executive Officer/President

Solvista Health

Cañon City, CO

Kara L. Johnson-Hufford, MPA

Chief Executive Officer

CBHC, Denver, CO

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Behavioral Health Consultant

Noonan Consults

Longmont, CO

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Crisis Manager

Valley-wide Health Systems

Alamosa, CO

Megan Coatley, MA, BCBA

Chief Culture Officer

North Range Behavioral Health

Greeley, CO

Diamond Mobbley, LPC, CAS

Clinical Director of Intensive Programs

San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group

Alamosa, CO

Jes Rau

Director of Training and Staff

Development

WellPower

Denver, CO

Sara Reid, MA

Director of Quality and Program

Development

Clinica Family Health & Wellness

Lafayette, CO



Continuing Education Credits

CBHC provides pre-approved Certificates of Attendance for attendees to submit to NAADAC & NASW for their continuing education credits.



CEU Credits Provided!
Up to 19 CEU Credits from
NASW & NAADAC

 @CBHC_News | #CBHC26Conf





Hotel Reservations

Beaver Run Resort & Conference Center

620 Village Road, Breckenridge, Colorado 80424

Call 1-800-525-2253 for reservations.

[Click here](#) for hotel rooms starting at \$177 + tax, service charge and parking fee.

Be sure to mention you are attending the CBHC
Conference to receive the group rate.



*Relax,
Reinvent,
Reconnect.*



Beaver Run Resort & Conference Center

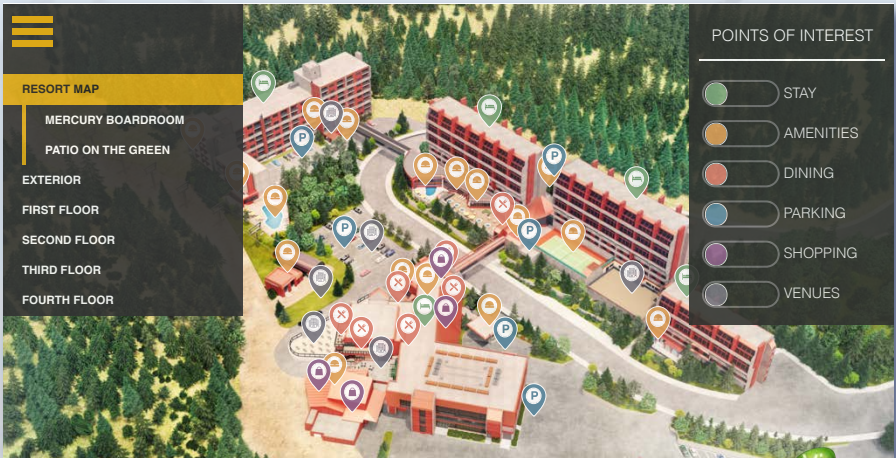
Interactive Map

[Click here](#) to access the [Beaver Run Interactive Map](#) below.

Or go to: <https://beaverrun.com/welcome-back-cbhc>

For use on tablets, laptops and desktop devices: (not available on phones)

Locate all your session rooms!



CBHC Pre-Conference Workshops | Wednesday Only

7:30am - 4:00pm | CBHC Registration Open | *Third Floor Foyer*

CI Clinical **Bd** Board **Bu** Business/Upper Management

8:00am - 4:00pm

CI **Bd** **Bu**

**Imperial
Ballroom**

*(Fourth floor
of Convention
Center)*

#1 Pre-Con | Behavioral Health Trainings: Building the Future of Prevention, Education, and Community Impact

See full description here

This 2026 pre-conference workshop brings together behavioral health educators, trainers, coordinators, and community leaders from across Colorado and beyond for a full day of learning, collaboration, and statewide strategy development.

Designed for professionals involved in MHFA, QPR, ASIST, safeTALK, Psychological First Aid, substance use prevention and recovery education, and community behavioral health outreach, this convening supports those who deliver and coordinate training programs across the state. Participants will move beyond individual trainings to explore a more coordinated, systems-level approach to behavioral health education and prevention.

(Includes training, breakfast, lunch, and coffee breaks)

8:00am - 8:30am	Breakfast & Networking
10:00am - 10:15am	Break
11:45am - 12:45pm	Lunch
2:15pm - 2:30pm	Break
4:00pm	End

8:00am - 4:00pm

CI **Bd** **Bu**

Peak 17

*(Front of the
Breckenridge
Ballroom)*

#2 Pre-Con | Meeting the Moment With AI: A Practical Playbook for Behavioral Health Leaders and Clinicians

Jonathan Liebert, MA

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping behavioral health care, creating new opportunities and new responsibilities for providers, clinicians, and system leaders.

This full-day, hands-on workshop moves beyond introduction to application, equipping participants with practical tools and frameworks to engage with AI thoughtfully and effectively. Designed for both clinical and operational audiences, the session explores where AI is already showing up across behavioral health settings, from documentation and treatment planning to access, operations, and strategic decision-making.

(Includes training, breakfast, lunch, and coffee breaks)

8:00am - 8:30am	Breakfast & Networking
10:00am - 10:15am	Break
11:45am - 12:45pm	Lunch
2:15pm - 2:30pm	Break
4:00pm	End

THURSDAY

7:30am - 4:30pm | **CBHC Registration Open** | *Third Floor Foyer*

7:45am - 6:30pm | Exhibit Hall Open | *Colorado Ballroom*

7:45am - 8:45am | Breakfast in Exhibit Hall | *Colorado Ballroom*

8:45am - 10:30am | **Keynote & Awards** CI Bd Bu

8:45am - 10:30am | **Keynote & Mental Health First Aid Awards**

Breckenridge
Ballroom

Keynote | Meeting the Moment: Moving Beyond Coping to Build Resilient, Connected Communities | *Johnny Crowder, CRPS-Y/A*

10:30am - 11:00am | Coffee Break | Visit the Exhibits & Sponsors in the Colorado Ballroom

11:00am - 12:00pm

Peak 17 | #100 Keeping Coloradans Covered: Preventing Medicaid Coverage Loss Under HRI | *Liz Owens* Bd Bu

Peak 14-16 | #101 Bypassing a Bachelor's Degree: How Alternative Admissions to an MA Degree Can Revolutionize Workforce Development | *Kevin Doyle, EdD, LPC (VA), LSATP (MN) & John Solomon, LPC (AK)* Bd Bu

Peak 6-10 | #102 Beyond Compliance: How Actionable Data Supports Sustainable BH Care | *Dorota Carpenedo, MPH & Robyn Odendahl, MPA* Bu

Peak 11/12 | #103 Ghost Asylums: When Families Become the System for Psychotic Disorders | *Kelly Comcowich, MA & Robin Predny, LPCC, MS, MA* CI

Coppertop 2
Beaver Den | #104 Elevating the Voices of People with Lived Experience | *Latisha Quintana, LCSW; Jennifer Turner, MSW; Lottie Elliott, HS; Barbara Vassis; Tyler Himelstieb* CI Bd

Coppertop 3 | #105 Bridging Care and Community: Food Is Medicine in Behavioral Health | *Mindy Klowden, MNM & Marti Macchi, DrPH, MPH, MEd* CI Bu

Imperial
Ballroom | #106 When Postpartum Risks Collide: Dyadic Considerations Around Perinatal Mental Health, Substance Use, and Intimate Partner Violence | *Sarah Briley, MPH, CHES; Lauren Smith, BSSW; Sonia Subudhi Warwick, MD, MPH* CI

12:00pm - 1:30pm | **Lunch** (*Note room locations below*)

Lunch for all attendees (*Colorado Ballroom*)

CCBHC Lunch (*Base Nine Lounge*)

MarComms Meeting & Lunch (*Mercury Board Room - Bldg. 4*)

Data & Technology (CIO) & Lunch (*Spencer's Private Dining Room*)

CI **Clinical** Bd **Board** Bu **Business/Upper Management**

1:30pm - 3:00pm

Peak 17	#200 A Perfect Storm: Why Trauma, Neuroscience, and Attachment are Fundamental <i>Meredith Buschart, MSW, LCSW & Anne Hellstrom, MSED, LPC</i>	CI
Peak 14-16	#201 Gettin' By: How Poverty Changes the Brain, Which Changes Everything <i>Linda Riddell, MS</i>	CI Bu
Peak 6-10	#202 Safety Net Merger Experiences: From Concept to Reality <i>Jania Arnaldi, DHA, MBA & Simon Smith, MHA</i>	Bd Bu
Peak 11-12	#203 Reimagining Youth Crisis Care: Key Takeaways from the Youth Crisis Resolution Team in Weld County <i>Zhaelin Cruz, MSW; Natoshia Murray, LPCC; Samantha Santy, LCSW; Lyza Verosky, LCSW</i>	CI Bu
Coppertop 2 Beaver Den	#204 For Everyone Who Takes Care of Everyone Else: Accessing Your Own Tools <i>Kat Atwell</i>	CI Bu
Coppertop 3	#205 Division of Fire and Prevention and the World of BHEs <i>Pete Anderson, FI-III, CLSS-HC & Craig Montoya, FI-III</i>	Bd
Imperial Ballroom	#206 From the Capitol to the Community: CBHC Budget and Policy Updates for 2026 <i>Frank Cornelia, MS, LPC; Veronica Bell, MPPA; Karen Wick, MPP; Gilbert Romero, JD</i>	CI Bd Bu

3:00pm - 3:30pm | Coffee Break | Visit the Exhibits & Sponsors in the Colorado Ballroom

3:30pm - 5:00pm

Peak 17	#300 General Session BHA Panel Meeting the Moment: A State Perspective on Youth and Family Systems of Care <i>Stephanie Beasley, MSW, BHA Commissioner & Gretchen Hammer, HCPF Executive Director</i>	CI Bd Bu
Peak 14-16	#301 Side-by-Side: A Blueprint for Seamless CMHC and School Integration in Times of Crisis <i>Mary Alex Dill, LCSW & Alison Harris, PhD, LPC</i>	CI Bu
Peak 6-10	#302 Scaling Dyadic Solutions <i>Melissa Buchholz, PsyD; Anna Marie Neal, LSW; Julia L. Roguski, MA, LPC, CAC III; Jennifer Sommer Sheppard, LCSW, IMH-E</i>	CI Bu
Peak 11/12	#303 Technology, Social Media, and Antisocial Behavior in High-Risk Youth <i>Dana Garofalini, LMHC, LPC & Suzanne Kerns, PhD</i>	CI
Coppertop 2 Beaver Den	#304 SMI Barriers and Transitions: Collaboration Overcoming Complexity <i>Owen Love, MHA, MA, LPC, LAC, ACS & Bonnie Wright, MBA, MS</i>	CI Bu
Coppertop 3	#305 Advancing Quality Through Measurement-Based Care <i>Cathie McLean, MA, LPC, CAS & Harry Williams</i>	Bd Bu
Imperial Ballroom	#306 The Transformative Impact of Peer Support on Reducing Suicidality <i>Megan Bettenberg, MA, LPC & Marchell Taylor</i>	CI



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Colorado Behavioral
Healthcare Council

Networking Reception

Join us for the drawing of Two-Night Stay at Beaver Run Resort
and \$100 Visa Gift Card

Thursday | 5:15pm - 6:30pm | *(Colorado Ballroom & Patio)*

Gather for appetizers and cash bar.

Sponsored by



Mile High
Behavioral
Healthcare

FRIDAY

7:30am - 4:30pm | **CBHC Registration Open** | *Third Floor Foyer*

7:45am - 1:30pm | Exhibit Hall Open | *Colorado Ballroom*

7:45am - 8:45am | Breakfast in Exhibit Hall | *Colorado Ballroom*

8:45am - 10:30am | Keynote & Awards CI Bd Bu

8:45am - 9:00am	Golden Abacus & Golden Lightbulb Awards
9:00am - 9:15am	CBHC Behavioral Health Legislative Champion Awards
9:15am - 10:30am Breckenridge Ballroom	Keynote Adaptive Leadership in Complex and Uncertain Times: The Power of Mindset and Resilience <i>Amer Kaissi, PhD</i>

10:30am - 11:00am | Coffee Break | Visit the Exhibits & Sponsors in the Colorado Ballroom

11:00am - 12:00pm

Peak 17	#400 Lessons Learned: 5 Years of Providing the Full SUD Continuum of Care <i>Jennifer Holcomb & Meghan A. Morrissey, LCSW, LAC</i>	CI Bu
Peak 14-16	#401 Universal Adoption of Outcome Tools <i>Lindsay Gries, PsyD</i>	CI Bu
Peak 6-10	#402 Embracing AI in Clinical Training: One Counseling Program's Approach to Using AI for Good in Clinical Skill Development <i>Jane Flournoy, PhD, LMFT, LPC, LAC; Liz Catbagan, BA; Britt Feia, BA; Benjamin Keller, BA</i>	CI Bu
Peak 11/12	#403 Fulfilling a Century-Old Promise: The Integration of Housing and Behavioral Healthcare <i>Evan Caster & Tyler Jaeckel, JD, MPP</i>	Bd Bu
Coppertop 2 Beaver Den	#404 Community Engagement from Assessment to Presence <i>Biko Bloom-Fisher, MS</i>	Bu Bd
Coppertop 3	#405 Promoting Parity Through Data: What Transparency in Coverage Means for Colorado Behavioral Health Providers <i>Mindy Klowden, MNM</i>	Bd Bu

12:00pm - 1:30pm | Lunch (*Note room locations below*)

Lunch for all attendees (*Colorado Ballroom*)

Deputy Directors' Lunch (*Spencer's Private Dining Room*)

CBHC Member CFO/Finance & Budget Lunch (*Base Nine Lounge*)

CI *Clinical* Bd *Board* Bu *Business/Upper Management*

CBHC & Membership Org Board Members Only Half-Day Event | *(Imperial Ballroom)*

12:00pm - 1:30pm | Annual CBHC Board Meeting & Board Awards Lunch

1:30pm - 3:30pm | #506 | **Federal Policy in Motion: HRI, Medicaid Budget Pressures and Work Requirements in Colorado's Behavioral Health System**

Panel & Discussion | *Cristen Bates, MPH; Liz Owens; Kari Snelson, LCSW, CHC*

3:30pm - 4:30pm | Membership Orgs & CBHC Board Member Only Reception

1:30pm - 3:00pm

Peak 17	#500 Colorado System of Care: Where Are We Now? <i>Stacey Davis, LCSW; Perry May; Mary Kay Meintzer, LPC, LAC, ACS; Marc Winokur, PhD; Kelli Reidford, LCSW; Jenn Conrad, LCSW, CCM; Annie Stiasny, MFT; Amanda Berger, MSW, LCSW</i>	Bd Bu
Peak 14-16	#501 From AI Chaos to Trust: Enterprise Governance for Colorado Behavioral Health Innovation <i>Brandon Ward, PsyD</i>	Bu Bd
Peak 6-10	#502 When Reform Meets Reality: Practical Lessons from Colorado's Behavioral Health Overhaul <i>Gina Lasky, PhD; Shannon Breitzman, MA; Angela Bergefurd, MPA</i>	Bd Bu
Peak 11-12	#503 Embracing the Shift: Tools for Reducing Tension and Increasing Performance <i>Kathryn Cronin Miller, MSW, LCSW</i>	Bd Bu
Coppertop 2 Beaver Den	#504 Leading the Way Home: Integrated Health Services and Wraparound Supports for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness <i>Anna Shapiro, MD; Amanda Smith, LCSW; Roberta Sturgeon; Allison Ulness</i>	Cl
Coppertop 3	#505 BHA Panel Operationalizing Colorado for ALL: A Unified Approach to Behavioral Health Access <i>Meghan Shelton, LPC; Marque Green, MS; Elizabeth "Liz" Thomas; Alyssa Hetschel, LCSW, LAC; Marc Condojani, LCSW, CAS</i>	Bd Cl

3:00pm - 3:30pm | Coffee Break | Visit the Exhibits & Sponsors in the Colorado Ballroom

3:30pm - 4:30pm

Peak 17	#600 CCBHC and PPS in Practice: A Colorado Perspective <i>Melissa Eddleman, MSW, LCSW, MPA & Steven Ihde, MS, PhD</i>	Bu
Peak 14-16	#601 The AI Shift: How Patients Find Behavioral Healthcare Now <i>Timothy, A. Zercher MBA</i>	Bu
Peak 6-10	#602 Do as I Say, Not as I Do? Applying Behavioral Health's Expertise to Support the Workforce <i>Cheri L. Skelding, LCSW & Brandon Wilcox</i>	Bu Cl
Peak 11/12	#603 Microdosing Psychedelics in Clinical Practice: A Holistic Framework for Mental Health Integration <i>Jessica Eden, LCSW, LAC, ADS-RT, NMII</i>	Cl

Cl Clinical **Bd** Board **Bu** Business/Upper Management

3:30pm - 4:30pm (continued)

Coppertop 2 Beaver Den	#604 Beyond Alignment: Practical Strategies for Behavioral Health–Public Health Collaboration <i>Shannon Breitzman, MA; Margot Swift, MPH; Robyn Odendahl, MPA</i>	Bd Bu
Coppertop 3	#605 Everything Under One Roof: Practical Lessons in Building Integrated Behavioral Health Care <i>Allison Pokrzywa, PA-C, MPH & Briana Tillman, DO, MEd</i>	Bu Cl

SATURDAY

7:30am - 11:00am | **CBHC Registration Open** | *Third Floor Foyer*

7:00am - 8:00am | Breakfast | *Colorado Ballroom*

8:00am - 11:00am (with 15-minute break)

Peak 17	#700 ALIGN to Thrive: A Human-Centered, Measurable Approach to Change for Behavioral Health Teams <i>Steven Haden, MSW, MBA, CPRP</i>	Cl Bd Bu
Coppertop 3	#701 Trauma, Oppression, and Audism: Clinical Implications for Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities <i>Paula DuPont, LCSW & Marja Possner</i>	Cl
Imperial Ballroom	#702 From Badge to Behavioral Health: Building Colorado's Crisis Response System in Real Time <i>Gordon R. Coombes, MA</i>	Bd Bu

Cl Clinical Bd Board Bu Business/Upper Management



CBHC

Colorado Behavioral
Healthcare Council

2026 CBHC Behavioral Health Legislative Champion Awards

Friday | 9:00am - 9:15am | (*Breckenridge Ballroom*)

CBHC is proud to honor the 2026 Behavioral Health Legislative Champions, recognized for their outstanding leadership and dedication to strengthening Colorado's behavioral health safety net during the 2026 legislative session.

Join us in thanking this year's Champions!

Evaluations Available Online



Evaluations Drawing

**Two-Night Stay at Beaver Run Resort
and \$100 Visa Gift Card**

**Complete your online evaluation
for a chance to win.**



[Click here](#) for live online session feedback!

Enter your email to access the online evaluations.

Available at www.cbhc.org/conference until October 9th.





WiFi Lounge Sponsor

mend

Open a browser on your device.

Select network: **Beaver Run Meeting 1**

Enter Password: **conferencewifi**



MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COLORADO

Take a course today!

Identify. Understand. Respond.

Mental Health First Aid is a skills-based training that teaches participants about mental health and substance use issues.

www.mhfacolorado.org

Mental Health First Aid Awards Presentation

Thursday | 8:45am - 9:00am | *(Breckenridge Ballroom)*

#1 Pre-Conference Workshop

Wednesday | September 30, 2026

8:00am - 4:00pm | *(Imperial Ballroom - 4th floor)*



#1 Pre-Conference Workshop | Behavioral Health Trainings: Building the Future of Prevention, Education, and Community Impact

This 2026 pre-conference workshop brings together behavioral health educators, trainers, coordinators, and community leaders from across Colorado and beyond for a full day of learning, collaboration, and statewide strategy development.

Designed for professionals involved in MHFA, QPR, ASIST, safeTALK, Psychological First Aid, substance use prevention and recovery education, and community behavioral health outreach, this convening supports those who deliver and coordinate training programs across the state. Participants will move beyond individual trainings to explore a more coordinated, systems-level approach to behavioral health education and prevention.

Behavioral health education strengthens communities, builds resilience, expands access to care, and supports a sustainable prevention workforce. This event focuses on strengthening that impact through collaboration and shared strategy.

- Explore the importance and evolution of prevention training
- Develop strategies for long-term sustainability
- Strengthen statewide partnerships and collaboration
- Expand community-wide impact

Attend and explore:

- ...The impact of prevention trainings (MHFA, QPR, ASIST, safeTALK, and others)
- ...Building community-wide behavioral health impact
- ...Statewide collaboration and strategic planning
- ...Outreach, engagement, and marketing strategies
- ...Facilitator effectiveness and instructional excellence
- ...Financial sustainability and revenue strategies
- ...Cross-sector partnership development
- ...Managing difficult classroom dynamics
- ...Instructor retention and burnout prevention

Join the Conversation! This pre-conference workshop is more than professional development—it is an opportunity to help shape the future of behavioral health education, prevention, and workforce development across Colorado and beyond. Together, we can strengthen the systems that support mental health, suicide prevention, and community wellbeing.

(Includes training, breakfast, lunch, and coffee breaks)

8:00am - 8:30am	Breakfast & Networking
8:30am - 10:00am	Workshop
10:00am - 10:15am	Break
10:15am - 11:45am	Workshop
11:45am - 12:45pm	Lunch
12:45pm - 2:15pm	Workshop
2:15pm - 2:30pm	Break
2:30pm - 4:00pm	End

#2 Pre-Conference Workshop

Wednesday | September 30, 2026

8:00am - 4:00pm | (Peak 17 - Front of Breckenridge Ballroom) **Cl** **Bd** **Bu**

#2 Pre-Conference Workshop | Meeting the Moment With AI: A Practical Playbook for Behavioral Health Leaders and Clinicians | *Jonathan Liebert, MA*

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping behavioral health care, creating new opportunities and new responsibilities for providers, clinicians, and system leaders. This full-day, hands-on workshop moves beyond introduction to application, equipping participants with practical tools and frameworks to engage with AI thoughtfully and effectively.

Designed for both clinical and operational audiences, the session explores where AI is already showing up across behavioral health settings, from documentation and treatment planning to access, operations, and strategic decision-making. Through real-world scenarios, live demonstrations, and guided practice, participants will gain experience using AI tools while learning how to maintain clinical judgment, human connection, and trust.

The workshop also examines key considerations around ethics, risk, and governance, including privacy, bias, and appropriate guardrails. Participants will explore where AI can add value and where caution is warranted within their own organizations.

Using a practical framework, attendees will develop an initial approach to AI adoption and leave with actionable next steps, including implementation considerations, staff readiness, and change management strategies.

Jonathan Liebert, MA is an AI thought leader, author, and nationally recognized advocate for social innovation, small business development and ethical AI use. A leader in the AI space, Jonathan founded The Colorado AI Collective, an interdisciplinary think tank of experts that are accelerating regional collaboration and education in artificial intelligence. He is the Chair of the National AI and Quantum Taskforce for the National Association of State Workforce Board Chairs, where he strategizes AI policy frameworks focused on workforce development, economic equity, and digital transformation.

Jonathan is the visionary behind Colorado Springs' inaugural BLAZE AI Summit, a statewide gathering designed to empower small and medium-sized businesses with AI tools and strategy. He also teaches applied AI through courses like AI Powerup for Small Businesses, enabling business leaders to adapt and thrive in an AI-driven economy. He is the author of Thought Partner. The Fusion of Soul and System: The AI Collaboration, a groundbreaking book exploring the synthesis of human and artificial intelligence. The work outlines a future-forward model of cognition and offers a practical framework for organizations and individuals to evolve alongside emerging technologies. He also has a weekly AI Column in the Southern Colorado Business Digest called, The AI Advantage.

(Includes training, breakfast, lunch, and coffee breaks)

8:00am - 8:30am	Breakfast & Networking
8:30am - 10:00am	Workshop
10:00am - 10:15am	Break
10:15am - 11:45am	Workshop
11:45am - 12:45pm	Lunch
12:45pm - 2:15pm	Workshop
2:15pm - 2:30pm	Break
2:30pm - 4:00pm	End



Jonathan Liebert, MA

Cl Clinical **Bd** Board **Bu** Business/Upper Management

Keynote & Awards CI Bd Bu

Thursday | 8:45am - 10:30am

Meeting the Moment: Moving Beyond Coping to Build Resilient, Connected Communities

Johnny Crowder, CRPS-Y/A



The behavioral health field has never demanded more from the people who show up for it every day. Tightening budgets, systemic complexity, and relentless change have left even the most dedicated leaders and clinicians quietly wondering if the weight of it all is theirs alone to carry.

Drawing on his own experience navigating the system as someone who needed it to work, Johnny offers behavioral health professionals something rare: the view from the other side of the door. This is an honest, grounded conversation about being realistic (without defaulting to cynicism), speaking up instead of struggling in silence, and remembering that the gaps in care only close when the people responsible for filling them can learn to lean on one another.

Join us to:

- Develop the patience and long-term perspective that sustainable, systemic change requires
- Build intentional lines of communication across teams and organizations so that problems can be identified and remedied
- Foster trust throughout the continuum of care so that silos are broken through shared responsibility

Johnny Crowder is a suicidelausage survivor, TEDx speaker, touring musician, Certified Peer Recovery Specialist, and the Founder & CEO of Cope Notes, a text-based mental health platform that provides daily support to users in more than 100 countries around the world. Armed with a decade of clinical treatment, a psychology degree from the University of Central Florida, and 10+ years of peer support and public advocacy experience through the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Johnny's youthful vigor for mental health has impacted millions of lives across the globe. Since his first keynote in 2011, Johnny's refreshingly candid perspective has attracted praise from hundreds of outlets, including Forbes, Entrepreneur Magazine, The Wall Street Journal, and even CNN World. Whether leading corporate wellness trainings or touring with his Billboard-charting heavy metal band, Prison, his infectious positivity and firsthand experience with multiple diagnoses uniquely equip him to provide realistic insight and inspiration amidst the pains of hardship with care, levity, and unconventional wit.

#100 | Keeping Coloradans Covered: Preventing Medicaid Coverage Loss Under HRI**Bd Bu**

This discussion will help behavioral health providers navigate upcoming Medicaid work requirements and six-month redeterminations by outlining what's ahead, how changes may affect members, and how Medicaid plans can support outreach, care coordination, and continuity efforts. Providers will leave with guidance to help patients stay covered and connected to care.

***Liz Owens** is the Chief External Relations Officer at Colorado Access, which is the state's largest public sector health plan with more than 500,000 members. Liz leads external-facing strategy across policy, communications, and government partnerships, including oversight of Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) and Child Health Plan Plus contracts.*

#101 | Bypassing a Bachelor's Degree: How Alternative Admissions to an MA Degree Can Revolutionize Workforce Development**Bd Bu**

BH organizations face ongoing workforce shortages, turnover, and limited advancement pathways. This session explores Hazelden Betty Ford's alternative admissions pathway to a Master's degree, that eliminates the need for a Bachelor's degree. Attendees will examine employer retention strategies, education benefits, and implications for licensure, partnerships, higher education, and policy.

***Kevin Doyle, EdD, LPC, LSATP** is President and CEO of Hazelden Betty Ford Graduate School, following service at Longwood University as Dean, Professor and Department Chair, and a 26 year career in addiction treatment. He has led AACSB and the Virginia Board of Counseling and is licensed as an LPC and LSATP in Virginia.*

***John Solomon, LPC** is a behavioral health executive, educator, and Licensed Professional Counselor with experience spanning treatment, education, workforce strategy, association leadership, and rural systems development.*

#102 | Beyond Compliance: How Actionable Data Supports Sustainable Behavioral Health Care**Bu**

This session equips behavioral health providers to measure quality and meaningful outcomes, balance provider priorities with industry standards, and use data for improvement. It addresses real-world challenges, emphasizing practical measurement for care delivery and accountability—moving beyond compliance to actionable insights that inform practice and policy.

***Dorota Carpenedo, MPH** is a Senior Consultant with deep expertise in quality measurement, performance management, and behavioral health data analytics. An epidemiologist, she supports behavioral health and public health systems by designing meaningful measures, dashboards, and evaluation frameworks that translate complex data into actionable insights for improvement, accountability, and policy decision-making.*

***Robyn Odendahl, MPA** is a Principal with more than 10 years of experience in public health and behavioral health research, evaluation, and planning. She leads community-engaged needs assessments, behavioral health system evaluations, and substance use prevention studies, translating qualitative and quantitative data into actionable strategies for health departments, policymakers, and community-based organizations.*

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#103 | Ghost Asylums: When Families Become the System for Psychotic Disorders CI

Two Colorado Mad Moms will share their lived experience to highlight how gaps in Colorado's behavioral health system leave families functioning as de facto treatment providers for loved ones with psychotic spectrum disorders. Family homes become "ghost asylums," filling the void left by systemic failures in access to care.

***Kelly Comcowich, MA** is a fierce advocate with lived experience caring for a child with severe mental illness. After losing her daughter to suicide, precipitated in part by inadequate mental health systems in Colorado, she advocates to elevate family voices and promote compassionate systemic change.*

***Robin Predny, LPCC, MS, MA** is a therapist and advocate with lived experience raising two young adult sons with psychosis-spectrum and bipolar disorders. As a member of Colorado Mad Moms, she bridges clinical expertise with a mother's perspective to champion stronger systems of care for families navigating severe mental illness.*

#104 | Elevating the Voices of People with Lived Experience CI Bd

This session elevates the voices of individuals living with behavioral health needs who have experienced justice system involvement. Through this session, members of Bridges Lived Experience Advisory Council will share their wisdom and insights on what does or doesn't work at the intersection of these two systems. Attendees are invited to identify and embrace practices that are designed to serve clients in ways that truly have positive and meaningful impact.

***Latisha Quintana, LCSW** serves as the Service and Resource Equity Director for Bridges of Colorado. She has dedicated the past two decades of her career serving victims of interpersonal violence, youth in the juvenile system, and individuals with complex behavioral health needs.*

***Jennifer Turner, MSW** is the Executive Director of Bridges of Colorado. She developed Bridges – the first of its kind in the nation – and has consulted on the development of similar models nationally. Prior to Bridges, Jennifer's work focused on collaborative and client-centered approaches to problem-solving for youth with complex-systems involvement.*

***Lottie Elliott, HS** transformed lived experience into leadership and advocacy after years of incarceration, trauma, and substance use challenges. She reunited with her son after 13 years and has earned an Associate's degree and behavioral health certifications. Lottie works as a Certified Peer Recovery Coach supporting others and serves on Bridges of Colorado's LEAC.*

***Barbara Vassis** is a family member and advocate for parents of adult children with serious brain illness who has become justice involved rather than receiving appropriate care via a civil safety net. She joined Bridges of Colorado LEAC in November 2023 and speaks for those unable to speak for themselves.*

***Tyler Himelstieb** is a 39-year-old identical triplet whose lived experience includes being found incompetent to stand trial and surviving the abuse of 4-point restraints at San Carlos Correctional Facility. Today he chairs the Mental Health Disability Advisory Council at Disability Law Colorado and serves on the Bridges LEAC.*

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Session Handouts

Download at www.cbhc.org starting Sept 1, 2026

#105 | Bridging Care and Community: Food Is Medicine in Behavioral Health CI Bu

Food is Medicine explores how nutrition interventions can support behavioral health outcomes by addressing social determinants, chronic stress, and other health conditions. This presentation highlights collaborative models integrating food access into care, offering scalable, equitable solutions for providers and community partners tackling urgent mental health challenges today through prevention and sustainability.

Marti Macchi, DrPH, MPH, MEd is President and CEO of Project Angel Heart, leading strategy, operations, and growth to deliver medically tailored meals for people with severe illnesses. She oversees staff, volunteers, and finances while fostering an inclusive culture. With 25+ years in public health, she advances chronic disease prevention and Food is Medicine initiatives.

Mindy Klowden, MNM is a national consultant, leader, and strategist. As Managing Director at Third Horizon, she leads competitive business strategy, manages multidisciplinary teams, ensures high-quality deliverables, and provides strategic consulting and expert facilitation services. Mindy has 30+ years of experience, an MNM from Regis University, and a BA from Colorado College.

#106 | When Postpartum Risks Collide: Dyadic Considerations Around Perinatal Mental Health, Substance Use, and Intimate Partner Violence CI

The postpartum year carries the highest risk for maternal morbidity and mortality, with leading causes tied to substance use, mental health, and interpersonal violence. Because maternal and infant health are inherently connected, risks affecting one impact the other. This session explores dyadic safety through didactics, case-based discussions, and practical strategies. The purpose of this session is to equip clinical caregivers to recognize overlapping postpartum risks, including substance use disorder, interpersonal violence, and maternal mental health conditions, and to apply this understanding to strengthen care for both birthing people and infants.

Sarah Briley, MPH, CHES is a Clinical Quality Improvement Program Manager, focused on helping Colorado hospitals implement evidence-based perinatal substance use practices. She partners with maternal health leaders to improve care through provider education, policy development, and quality improvement initiatives. Sarah holds an MPH from Indiana University and is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES).

Lauren Smith, BSSW is the Integrated Care Program Manager for CPCQC. Lauren leads the implementation of IMPACT BH, a perinatal behavioral health program, and supports integration of community voice within maternal and infant initiatives.

Sonia Subudhi Warwick, MD, MPH is a Pediatrician and Infant Initiative Manager / Quality Improvement Lead at the Colorado Perinatal Care Quality Collaborative. She leads NEST, a statewide hospital-based safe sleep initiative, and continues clinical practice while focusing on how maternal and infant needs intersect across the perinatal care continuum.

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Evaluations

[Click here](#) to enter real-time online session feedback!

#200 | A Perfect Storm: Why Trauma, Neuroscience, and Attachment are Fundamental Elements for Understanding the Science of Addiction

CI

This session explores the impact of developmental trauma and highlights key intersections between the neuroscience of trauma and addiction. Using attachment theory as a foundational framework, it examines how early relational experiences shape the development of addiction and influence treatment approaches. Participants will gain insight into how integrating these perspectives can transform and enhance addiction treatment.

***Meredith Buschart, MSW, LCSW** serves as Clinical Program Director at Valley Hope of Parker with 15 years specializing in complex PTSD, substance use, interpersonal violence, and co-occurring disorders. She is dedicated to trauma-informed care, staff wellness, and systems-level change across healthcare and community settings, and is committed to fostering healing, resiliency, and hope.*

***Anne Hellstrom, MSEd, LPC** is Executive Director of Valley Hope Addiction Treatment and Recovery with over 30 years in behavioral health. She specializes in trauma and substance use disorders and is known for her leadership, clinical expertise, and commitment to evidence-based, person-centered care that supports lasting recovery.*

#201 | Gettin' By: How Poverty Changes the Brain, Which Changes Everything

CI BU

Experience the workshop that puts your brain into poverty. See how thinking and decision-making respond to scarcity, then learn brain science basics. Understand what people in poverty cope with and how to communicate effectively with them, improving your work with low-income families and clients.

***Linda Riddell, MS** is an Epidemiologist specializing in poverty and brain science. She created Gettin' By, a training program featuring a game that simulates the cognitive effects of poverty. An experienced public speaker, she presents at conferences nationwide. She holds a Master's in Health Policy from the University of Southern Maine.*

#202 | Safety Net Merger Experiences: From Concept to Reality in a Changing Environment

Bd Bu

This session will provide insight into recent mergers within Colorado's safety net. In 2023, Health Systems (FQHC) and Southeast Behavioral Health (CMHC) merged. In 2024, Clinica Family Health (FQHC) and Mental Health Partners (CMHC) merged. Executives will share background to the merger decision, progress, lessons learned, and insights.

***Simon Smith, MHA** is President and CEO of Clinica Family Health & Wellness. Simon joined Clinica's staff in 2011 and became CEO in 2013. Smith received his Bachelor's of Arts degree from Earlham College and a Master's of Healthcare Administration degree from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.*

***Dr. Jania Arnoldi, DHA, MBA** is the President and CEO of Valley-Wide Health Systems. Jania joined Valley-Wide in 2019, having served as the CFO at 2 community health centers for over 20 years in Arizona. Jania received her Doctorate degree in Healthcare Administration in 2020 and her Master's of Business Administration in 2006.*

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Friday | 12:00pm - 1:30pm

Sign up for your time slot to enjoy a massage.

Enjoy refreshments, relax and recharge.

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#203 | Reimagining Youth Crisis Care: Key Takeaways from the Implementation of the Youth Crisis Resolution Team in Weld County



The Youth Crisis Resolution Team (YCRT) meets the moment for communities by delivering a multidisciplinary response to adolescent mental health crises in Weld County. This session explores YCRT's collaborative model and diverse interventions, concluding with a panel discussion that shares practical insights for strengthening community-based crisis response systems for youth.

Samantha Santy, LCSW is the Director of In-Home Youth and Family Services at North Range Behavioral Health, where she leads programs that support adolescents and families across Weld County, Colorado. Sam earned her Bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies from Colorado State University in 2011, along with minors in Women's Studies and Political Science. Early in her career, she worked as an advocate for young children impacted by domestic violence, developing a strong foundation in trauma-informed care and systems minded interventions. She later returned to Colorado State University to earn her Master's in Social Work in 2016. Since joining North Range Behavioral Health in 2016, Sam has held several roles serving adolescents and families throughout Weld County.

Natoshia Murray, LPCC brings over 8 years of experience supporting high-risk youth and families in crisis and community-based settings. Her career spans peer support, crisis response, clinical therapy, and program supervision, providing her with a well-rounded perspective on both frontline care and systems-level coordination. She played a key role in the development and early implementation of the Youth Crisis Resolution Team (YCRT), contributing to program structure, service delivery approaches, and clinical protocols. Natoshia integrates innovative approaches into her practice to support youth and families in achieving stability, wellness, and long-term success.

Lyza Verosky, LCSW is the Director of Crisis Services at North Range Behavioral Health, where she oversees crisis response programs and works to ensure individuals and families have access to timely, compassionate behavioral health support during moments of acute need. Lyza earned her Bachelor's degree in Psychology, with a minor in Disability Studies, from University of Wyoming in 2014. She later completed her Master's of Social Work (MSW) at Arizona State University in 2019. Lyza began her career at North Range Behavioral Health as a Functional Family Therapist in 2019 prior to transitioning to a leadership role managing Crisis Services in 2021. Throughout her career, Lyza has developed expertise in several areas of behavioral health, including intellectual and developmental disabilities, domestic violence and sexual assault, homelessness, family therapy, and crisis intervention.

Zhaelin Cruz, MSW is a Functional Family Therapist with a Youth Crisis Resolution Team (YCRT), where she supports youth and families navigating complex mental health and behavioral challenges. Zhaelin earned her Bachelor's of Arts in Criminology & Criminal Justice, with minors in Legal Studies and Sociology, from the University of Northern Colorado in 2022 and is currently pursuing a Master's of Social Work at Metropolitan State University of Denver. Since entering the human services field in 2022, Zhaelin has developed a strong passion for supporting individuals across the lifespan, with a particular focus on community re-entry following incarceration, as well as youth, adolescent, and adult mental health. Their work emphasizes strengthening family dynamics and overall functioning through collaborative, evidence-informed practices.

#204 | For Everyone Who Takes Care of Everyone Else: Accessing Your Own Tools CI Bu

Behavioral health professionals are trained to create safety for everyone else. You all know this. You can sit through an entire conference, earn your CE credit, and still go home with mental health struggles of your own. Sound familiar? We'll look at why behavioral health professionals are often the last ones to use the tools they teach, and how we might go about doing things a little differently.

***Kat Atwell** is a keynote speaker and mental health educator with over 20 years of lived experience with bipolar disorder, panic disorder, and generalized anxiety disorder. With her diagnoses comes an equally long career of figuring out how to be professionally functional about it. She helps teams have better conversations about mental health at work and beyond, while continuing to work on herself. Shout-out to all the therapists.*

#205 | Division of Fire and Prevention and the World of BHEs Bd

Prepare for your next Life Safety Survey with expert guidance from the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control. This session will cover practical strategies, common compliance pitfalls, and proven best practices to help healthcare facilities maintain compliance, enhance patient safety, and confidently navigate the survey process with greater success and readiness. Walk away with actionable insights that can help protect your facility, your staff, and the patients who depend on you every day.

***Pete Anderson, FI-III, CLSS-HC** is the Acute Health Care Unit Chief for the State of Colorado, bringing over 26 years of dedicated public service to his role. He leads the team tasked with regulatory oversight of Colorado's hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, and behavioral health facilities, ensuring safety and compliance across the state's healthcare network.*

***Craig Montoya (FI-III)** is a Plan Examiner/Inspector with the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC), serving since 2019. Holding multiple ICC and NFPA certifications, he developed DFPC's Fire Prevention Branch training program and contributed to the agency's 2024–2029 Strategic Plan. Craig also played a key role in restructuring Colorado's Health Care Rules adopted in late 2025, drawing on his extensive background in healthcare facility maintenance, commercial development, and construction management.*

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#206 | From the Capitol to the Community: CBHC Budget and Policy Updates for 2026



Following a legislative session shaped by a \$1.5 billion state budget shortfall, lawmakers made difficult decisions with significant implications for behavioral health providers and the communities they serve. At the same time, federal policy shifts are creating new challenges and opportunities. This session will connect decisions made at the Capitol to their real-world impact, providing an overview of key 2026 state and federal policy and budget developments and exploring how fiscal pressures, financing reforms, and evolving federal priorities are shaping the future of Colorado's behavioral health system. Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of the changing policy landscape and the issues most likely to influence behavioral health funding, advocacy, and system reform efforts in the years ahead.

Frank Cornelia, MS, LPC is Deputy Executive Director of Policy & Strategy for the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council (CBHC), where he leads the organization's advocacy agenda and strategic policy development. A licensed clinician and public policy professional, he has helped shape Colorado's behavioral health reform efforts since joining CBHC in 2012.

Veronica Bell, MPPA is the Public Policy Manager at Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council (CBHC), where she leads policy analysis, legislative advocacy, and stakeholder engagement on issues impacting Colorado's behavioral health safety net. She works closely with policymakers, providers, and partner organizations to advance policies that support Colorado's behavioral health system and the communities it serves. Veronica holds a Bachelor's of Arts in Spanish and a Master's of Public Policy and Administration from Colorado State University.

Karen Wick, MPP is a Principal at Swift Strategies, a government relations firm in Denver, Colorado. She has more than 15 years of legislative and political experience honed while working for top advocacy organizations in Colorado and Washington, DC. As Political Director and Lobbyist for the Colorado Education Association, an affiliate of the National Education Association, she led strategic campaigns to advance their political and legislative goals and engage their 35,000 members across the state. Her previous experience also includes advancing rights for LGBTQIA+ individuals nationally with the Gill Foundation; advocating for union members with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; and advancing the rights of working women at Women Work! The National Network for Women's Employment. A native of New Jersey, Karen completed her Bachelor's degree at Montclair State University. She later earned her Master's in Public Policy at the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Gilbert Romero, JD is a Principal/Attorney with Capitol Success Group, a government affairs and lobbying firm he started in 1999. He is currently the lead lobbyist for CBHC. Gil served in the Colorado House of Representatives from 1984 to 1998; 8 of those years he served on the powerful Joint Budget Committee. He is a former Judge Advocate General and a Major in the Army National Guard. He holds a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Colorado Law School, and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science, University of Colorado, with a Master's degree from Harvard University.

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#300 | **General Session BHA Panel | Meeting the Moment: A State Perspective on Youth and Family Systems of Care**



Colorado is transforming youth behavioral health. Join BHA Commissioner Stephanie Beasley and HCPF Executive Director Gretchen Hammer to explore our bold, unified vision for a seamless system of care. Discover how our cross-agency collaboration is bridging gaps, prioritizing early intervention, and empowering families with the integrated, whole-person support they deserve.

Stephanie Beasley, MSW is the Governor-appointed Commissioner of the Colorado Behavioral Health Administration, responsible for ensuring Coloradans have access to quality mental health and substance use disorder services. She was previously Deputy Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Early Childhood. Throughout her career, she has led operations across various health care and social services organizations.

Gretchen Hammer is a seasoned public leader with deep connections to Colorado and a passion for expanding and improving health care access. She served as Colorado's Medicaid Director from 2015-2018 at the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. As a member of the executive team she provided strategic direction for Colorado's Medicaid program to ensure access to high quality health care for Coloradans. Prior to her service at HCPF she was involved in state health policy through a number of positions and coalitions where she developed her passion for community level collaboration to increase access to health care for underserved communities. Gretchen brings decades of leadership and health care expertise to HCPF and high-level management experience most recently as a Senior Fellow at Mathematica, where she worked with state and local governments on health and human services programs. Gretchen is a graduate of Colorado College and has a Masters's of Public Health from the University of Washington.

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Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing



#301 | Side-by-Side: A Blueprint for Seamless CMHC and School Integration in Times of Crisis CI Bu

When a crisis hits a school, there is no time to bridge gaps. This session provides a practical blueprint for integrating CMHC partners into school response structures. Learn to navigate HIPAA/FERPA hurdles, align communication loops, and build a unified safety net that ensures seamless support for students and staff when it matters most.

Mary Alex Dill, LCSW is a Crisis Response Specialist with the Colorado Office of School Safety. Before joining OSS, she served Cheyenne Mountain School District for 8 years, applying experience in community mental health and child sexual abuse response.

Alison Harris, PhD, LPC serves as a Crisis Response Specialist for the Office of School Safety. Drawing on 16 years as a school-based mental health professional, she bridges the gap between community care and education. Alison passionately advocates for comprehensive crisis recovery, prioritizing the mental wellbeing of both students and the staff who support them.

#302 | Scaling Dyadic Solutions: A Roadmap for Sustainable Family Interventions in Colorado CI Bu

Four evidence-based dyadic models will be described: Safe Babies, HealthySteps, Child First, and ECFC AMHR. These interventions address early childhood mental health needs across the continuum of care, from health promotion to acute intervention. Each supports whole family wellness and is integrated into Youth and Family Systems of Care.

Melissa Buchholz, PsyD is a Clinical Psychologist and Professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Harris Program for Child Development and Infant Mental Health. She is the director of HealthySteps in Colorado and is a passionate advocate for the health and well-being of young children and families.

Anna Marie Neal, LSW is the Director of Safe Babies at Illuminate Colorado, working at the intersection of infant and early childhood mental health and child welfare systems. She has extensive experience implementing dyadic, relationship-based interventions with infants, toddlers, and their caregivers in court-involved contexts.

Julia L. Roguski, MA, LPC, CAC III is the Associate Executive Director at Savio House, where she has worked in various capacities for the last 35 years. Julia is passionate about helping children and families stay together and reducing the number of children who experience foster care. Over her career she has helped develop two specialty courts in the State of Colorado and now serves as a faculty member for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals.

Jennifer Sommer Sheppard, LCSW, IMH-E (Clinical Mentor) is an Early Childhood & Family Center Clinical Manager at Aurora Mental Health & Recovery, overseeing the EC services including consultation, outpatient and in-home therapy.

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Session Handouts

Download CBHC session handouts on the
CBHC website at www.cbhc.org after September 1, 2026

#303 | Technology, Social Media, and Antisocial Behavior in High-Risk Youth: Strategies to Strengthen Caregiver Control and Reduce Risk**CI**

This session explores how technology and social media influence antisocial behavior in high-risk youth. Learn practical strategies to help caregivers improve monitoring, set effective boundaries, strengthen communication, and reduce behavioral risks associated with online activity, peer influence, and excessive or unsafe technology use.

***Suzanne Kerns, PhD** is a Clinical-Community Psychologist, Professor, and Director of Transformative Research at the Kempe Center. Her focus is on enhancing the wellbeing of children and families through ensuring access to proven-effective treatment approaches using implementation science. She is the Network Partner Director for the Rocky Mountain Multisystemic Therapy Network.*

***Dana Garofalini, LMHC, LPC** is the Co-Director of the Rocky Mountain Multisystemic Therapy Network at the Kempe Center for Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect. Her work focuses on supporting high-quality implementation of evidence-based treatment through fidelity monitoring, clinician development, and systems collaboration. Dana supports MST teams across Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona and has specialized experience in telehealth implementation and training.*

#304 | SMI Barriers and Transitions: Collaboration Overcoming Complexity**CI Bu**

As providers continue to serve more people experiencing serious mental illness, the Civil and Forensic Mental Health Services offers a collaborative approach to address the needs of the most complex individuals in our system to ease that complexity.

***Owen Love, MHA, MA, LPC, LAC, ACS** has served Colorado's behavioral health system for 17 years, from direct care to senior leadership, and currently serves as Division Director of Outpatient Services for Colorado's Civil and Forensic Mental Health Services. Owen has dual Master's degrees in Counseling and Business.*

***Bonnie Wright, MBA, MS** has worked in Behavioral Health since 2005, progressing through clinical and leadership roles, currently as Division Director of Mental Health Transitional Living Homes. With two Master's degrees, including an MBA in Healthcare Administration, she is passionate about equitable, accessible services. She frequently presents on behavioral health transformation.*

#305 | Advancing Quality Through Measurement-Based Care: A Real-World Implementation Journey**Bd Bu**

Measurement-Based Care (MBC) is becoming a standard for high-quality behavioral health and value-based care readiness. With practical insights from Greenspace Health and a real-world implementation from WellPower, highlighting strategies to improve outcomes, integrate data into workflows, and navigate implementation challenges.

***Harry Williams** is Vice President of Clinical Partnerships at Greenspace Health, supporting adoption of measurement-based care (MBC) across mental health and substance use services. Harry and his team have helped lead 500+ MBC implementations. He mentors with Big Brothers Big Sisters Canada and supports early-stage tech companies.*

***Cathie McLean, MA, LPC, CAS** is Director of Quality Systems at WellPower in Denver. She has over 30 years' experience in healthcare settings spanning physical health, mental health and substance misuse services, and is a strong advocate for whole-person care. Her passion lies in co-creating and implementing data-informed continuous quality improvement strategies for successful engagement and outcomes.*

#306 | The Transformative Impact of Peer Support on Reducing Suicidality

CI

This presentation explores the transformative impact of peer support in reducing suicidality. Attendees will gain insights into its role within the Zero Suicide model at WellPower, supported by WellPower's and CDC data. Discover creative strategies to enhance caring contact programs, including direct referrals, peer support groups, cross-department coordination, and advanced staff training initiatives.

***Megan Bettenberg, MA, LPC** is a Licensed Professional Counselor dedicated to reducing suicidality in marginalized populations. With expertise in therapy and case management within community mental health, they are committed to innovative client engagement strategies. A passionate advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion, Megan strives to create meaningful, accessible pathways to mental health care.*

***Marchell Taylor** is a licensed Family and Peer Support Specialist that transformed his life after enduring childhood trauma and serving 24 years in prison. Diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury during his second sentence, he underwent extensive mental health treatment. Now, he advocates for the prison TBI population and supports clients struggling with suicidal thoughts.*

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Networking Reception

Join us for the drawing of Two-Night Stay at Beaver Run Resort
and \$100 Visa Gift Card

Thursday | 5:15pm - 6:30pm | *(Colorado Ballroom & Patio)*

Gather for appetizers and cash bar.

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Friday | 8:45am - 10:30am

Adaptive Leadership in Complex and Uncertain Times: The Power of Mindset and Resilience | *Amer Kaissi, PhD*

Amidst unrelenting organizational pressures on community behavioral health and safety-net systems, leaders must navigate complexity while leading their teams through uncertainty. Amer argues that the best leaders are those that adopt a growth mindset and build teams based on growth cultures. They lead with resilience and realistic optimism: They acknowledge challenges and continue to inspire hope and change.

Drawing on the latest research and examples from his coaching practice, he shares how leaders can build growth-oriented teams and organizations that focus on resilience, creativity and innovation, while continuing to meet the needs of their communities.

In this transformative talk, leaders will be able to immediately implement proven strategies to:

- Discover the power of growth mindset and resilience
- Develop leadership skills and behaviors that balance disruption with community needs
- Build adaptive teams and organizations

Dr. Amer Kaissi is Leadership Keynote Speaker and an-award winning Professor of Leadership at Trinity University, with adjunct appointments at Columbia University and University of Colorado-Denver. He is an executive coach who has worked with hundreds of leaders and teams all over the world. Amer is the author of five books, including Humblitious: The Power of Low-Ego, High-Drive Leadership. His newest book is The Positive Intent Mindset: Exceptional Leadership Through Trust & Accountability. He has been featured on the Harvard Business Review podcast and numerous other media outlets. He has spoken on leadership topics at more than 300 organizations, leadership conferences, corporate events and retreats. He lives in San Antonio with his wife and has two grown children in college.

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#400 | Lessons Learned: 5 years of Providing the Full SUD Continuum of Care

CI Bu

This session will focus on transitions of care along the ASAM continuum for substance use disorder (SUD) services. What has 5 years of data shown us? Presenters will share lessons learned about how offering the full ASAM continuum supports engagement in treatment and successful transitions back to the community following residential and hospital stays.

Jennifer Holcomb is Behavioral Health Benefits Section Manager at HCPE, where she leads policy development and implementation for behavioral health services. With more than 30 years of experience, her background spans research, organizational management, and direct service to vulnerable populations.

Meghan A. Morrissey, LCSW, LAC is a behavioral health leader with over 20 years of experience across clinical practice, policy, and research. At the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing, she oversees crisis services and behavioral health safety net initiatives, with an emphasis on implementation and system improvement.

#401| Universal Adoption of Outcome Tools

CI Bu

Over 5 years, Diversus Health has embedded longitudinal measurement-based care by integrating outcome tools throughout our clinical practice. This session reviews our phased implementation process, staff training, automation, and data-driven strategies that facilitated a rise in utilization from 3% to 70%. Attendees will gain insights on practical application of standardized outcome tool utilization in behavioral health service delivery.

Lindsay Gries, PsyD has served as Director of Internship Training at Diversus Health since 2014. Lindsay's professional passions include provision of supervision and training to Doctoral and Master's level students, supporting the professional development of clinical leaders, and improving quality of clinical practice through implementation of measurement-based care.

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#402 | Embracing AI in Clinical Training: One Counseling Program's Approach to Using AI for Good in Clinical Skill Development



While the use of artificial intelligence (AI) has been a point of contention and spirited debate in academia for the past several years, the field of counseling has been moving towards AI-assisted practice. This begs the question; how can we use AI “for good” to best support our graduate counseling students’ needs for skill development? This learning session will provide an overview of how one graduate counseling program has incorporated an AI tool to best support student skill development.

Jane Flournoy, PhD, LMFT, LPC, LAC is the Clinical Director of the Department of Human Services and Counseling at MSU Denver and teaches in the Clinical Behavioral Health: Addictions Emphasis program. Jane has a PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision. She is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT), a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and a Licensed Addictions Counselor (LAC).

Liz Catbagan, BA is a graduate student in MSU Denver’s M.S. Clinical Behavioral Health, Addictions Emphasis program. She has over 2 years of experience in the behavioral health field with over a year of experience working with people with substance use disorders. She is seeking to get licensure as both a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and as a Licensed Addictions Counselor (LAC) after graduation.

Britt Feia, BA is a graduate student in MSU Denver’s M.S. Clinical Behavioral Health, emphasis in Addiction Counseling program, and a professional background in neurology research. Britt combines scientific curiosity and interdisciplinary experience to support evidence-based, client-centered substance use treatment and counseling practice, with interests in trauma-informed care, grief, and meaningful support for individuals, families, and communities.

Ben Keller, BA has a certificate in full-stack development and is currently a graduate student in MSU Denver’s M.S. Clinical Behavioral Health, with an emphasis in Addictions Counseling. He has over 2 years of experience in the behavioral health field, including over 1 year working with individuals with autism spectrum disorder. He is currently seeking to get licensure as both a Licensed Addictions Counselor (LAC) and a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) after graduation.

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#403 | Fulfilling a Century-Old Promise: The Integration of Housing and Behavioral Healthcare

Bd Bu

Integrating behavioral healthcare with housing is vital. Supportive housing plays an essential role in meeting the needs of people experiencing lengthy episodes of homelessness and complex barriers to housing stability. This session highlights how combining tenancy support services with housing financial assistance dramatically improves tenant outcomes.

***Evan Caster** has over 15 years of experience leading local and state efforts to resolve episodes of homelessness. Prior to joining DOH, he served as the Director of Homelessness Initiatives for the Colorado Department of Human Services, leading efforts to prevent episodes of homelessness and supporting Coloradans facing housing insecurity.*

***Tyler Jaeckel, JD, MPP** has over 20 years of experience in housing policy, program development, and financing at the local, state, and federal levels. Prior to joining DOH, he was Chief of the Office of Federal Funds and Strategic Initiatives for Governor Jared Polis, where he oversaw housing programs and federal stimulus investments.*

#404 | Community Engagement from Assessment to Presence

Bu Bd

Community engagement is a mix of intuition and intentionality; but how do you engage with both of these when the world feels like it is spinning faster and faster? Join WellPower Engagement Manager Biko Bloom-Fisher to discuss methods for gathering community feedback and needs, while also being an engaged community partner that fosters trust and inclusion!

***Biko Bloom-Fisher, MS** is the Engagement Manager at WellPower, responsible for overseeing WellPower's community engagement, partnerships, internal employee engagement, and volunteerism. Biko received his Bachelor's in Communication from the University of Colorado, and received his Master's of Science in Counseling and Educational Leadership from Mississippi State University. Biko primarily worked in higher education supporting students in crisis, DEI programming, and student leadership development before transitioning to work at WellPower in 2023 is the Engagement Manager at WellPower, responsible for overseeing WellPower's community engagement, partnerships, internal employee engagement, and volunteerism.*

#405 | Promoting Parity Through Data: What Transparency in Coverage Means for Colorado Behavioral Health Providers

Bd Bu

This workshop explains how transparency in coverage data can help Colorado behavioral health providers assess commercial rates, evaluate parity, and strengthen payer negotiations. It highlights practical uses of rate transparency, market benchmarking, and value-based payment strategies to support sustainability, expand access, and advance more equitable reimbursement across behavioral health services.

***Mindy Klowden, MNM** is a national consultant, leader, and strategist. As Managing Director at Third Horizon, she leads competitive business strategy, manages multidisciplinary teams, ensures high-quality deliverables, and provides strategic consulting and expert facilitation services. Mindy has 30+ years of experience, an MNM from Regis University, and a BA from Colorado College.*

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#500 | Colorado System of Care: Where Are We Now? (Panel Discussion)



Hear from a panel of stakeholders and partners who are directly involved with implementing the Colorado System of Care (CO-SOC), a systemic shift in Colorado's approach to providing children, youth and family behavioral health. They will discuss their experiences and lessons learned from the robust and ongoing collaboration, thoughtful execution, and continued dialogue to establish this new approach to children, youth and family behavioral health. This panel will be moderated by HCPF and will include representation from: HCPF, BHA, the Workforce Capacity Center at Colorado State University, the Regional Accountable Entities, Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organizations, and a CO-SOC provider.

- What has happened since Medicaid served its first member under CO-SOC in November 2025?
- What are the CO-SOC providers saying?
- What does the collaboration look like between the referring entities and the service providers?
- How has the Workforce Capacity Center been a leader in this network build out?

Stacey Davis, LCSW is the Systems of Care Section Manager at HCPF. She has over 19 years of experience working with and on behalf of children, youth and families in Colorado in a variety of settings. As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, she has provided direct clinical work, overseen clinical teams, developed quality compliance metrics, developed and implemented behavioral health policy and led statewide program implementation.

Perry May is HCPF's Senior Advisor on Behavioral Health and Access. He brings a Master's Degree in Social Work, over 30 years experience in behavioral health from providing child and family therapy to overseeing numerous CDHS entities as their Deputy Executive Director of Health Facilities.

Mary Kay Meintzer, LPC, LAC, ACS is Division Director of Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) at Colorado's Behavioral Health Administration, leading statewide strategy, oversight, and collaboration across the CYF behavioral health continuum. As a faculty provider at the University of Colorado for 14 years, she brings extensive experience in integrated care, clinical supervision, workforce development, and system transformation.

Marc Winokur, PhD (he/him/his) is Director of the Social Work Research Center, joined the School of Social Work faculty at Colorado State University in fall 2004. Marc has over 20 years of applied research and evaluation experience in child maltreatment prevention that has influenced policies and practices at the international, federal, state, and county-levels.

Kelli Reidford, LCSW is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with 26 years of experience, including school social work, diagnostic assessments, high fidelity wraparound and system of care, and private practice, and the Director for the System of Care team in the Children, Youth and Families division at the BHA.

Jenn Conrad, LCSW, CCM has 20 years of experience in Colorado's behavioral health system. She has worked across multiple levels of care and is a leader in the design of statewide safety net behavioral health services. Jenn is Vice President of Clinical Services at Signal, serving BHASO Regions 2, 3, and 4.

Annie Stiasny, MFT is the Director of Behavioral Health Integration at Rocky Mountain Health Plans and the Colorado System of Care Manager for RAE/BHASO Region 1. With a background in MFT and school counseling, she specializes in care management, system integration, and family-centered services for children and youth.

Amanda Berger, MSW, LCSW is a Compassionate Care Coordination leader with deep experience improving services for youth and families. At Colorado Access, she leads system-of-care initiatives focused on program implementation, performance metrics, and standardized processes.

#501 | From AI Chaos to Trust: Enterprise Governance for Colorado Behavioral Health Innovation

AI is reshaping every corner of behavioral health, from documentation and workflows to client engagement and analytics. This session reviews current AI trends and shares a practical enterprise governance approach that manages security, privacy, legal, and ethical risk without slowing adoption. Attendees will leave with clear governance principles, defined roles, and practical decision pathways for responsible, fast-moving innovation.

Brandon Ward, PsyD is a Licensed Psychologist in Colorado, Chief Digital and Innovation Officer at Diversus Health, and Board Chair of the Behavioral Health Exchange. He leads enterprise technology, analytics, and responsible AI adoption, partnering with clinical, operational, legal, and security leaders to strengthen governance while accelerating practical innovation in behavioral health.

#502 | When Reform Meets Reality: Practical Lessons from Colorado's Behavioral Health Overhaul

This session explores practical lessons from Colorado's behavioral health reform, emphasizing model design, implementation challenges, cross system alignment, and provider engagement amid leadership changes and fiscal constraints. Through storytelling and HMA-facilitated discussion, attendees gain actionable insights for adapting and partnering effectively in dynamic, real-world reform environments.

Gina Lasky, PhD, MAPL is a Senior Vice President with Health Management Associates with more than two decades of policy, clinical, and program improvement for public sector behavioral health. She has deep experience leading Colorado's behavioral health reform, including community-based collaboratives, jail-based behavioral health evaluation, statewide needs assessment, and system transformation initiatives

Shannon Breitzman, MA is Managing Director of Population Health at Health Management Associates. She has more than 25 years of leadership in public and behavioral health. She played a central role in Colorado's behavioral health reform, and has led statewide needs assessments, system design, and prevention strategies spanning suicide, opioid misuse, and mental health promotion, supporting state and local agencies nationwide.

Angela Bergesford, MPA is a Senior Principal at Health Management Associates with more than 25 years of experience in behavioral health policy and system transformation. She has supported Colorado's behavioral health reform through strategic advising on governance, financing, and Medicaid integration, drawing on deep state leadership experience to help states modernize behavioral health systems statewide.

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#503 | Embracing the Shift: Tools for Reducing Tension and Increasing Performance Across Four Generations

Bd Bu

Today's workplaces include four generations, each with their own norms and values. In this session, we will unpack the root causes of generational differences. Then, we will apply accountability tools to challenging management scenarios—particularly referencing the generational divide between younger (Gen Z/Millennials) and older (Baby Boomers/Gen X) employees.

***Kathryn Cronin Miller, MSW, LCSW (she/her)** is the Founder of A Better Place To Work. She helps social sector organizations overcome people and culture challenges to create engaged, trusting, and high-performing teams. In addition to her consulting work, Kathryn serves on faculty at the University of Colorado-Anschutz School of Medicine.*

#504 | Leading the Way Home: Integrated Health Services and Wraparound Supports for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

CI

A multidisciplinary team discusses how an innovative program is eliminating barriers for people experiencing homelessness. A new shelter-based Day Center creates a one-stop resource for behavioral health, primary care, and other services. Trauma-informed clinical outreach maximizes engagement and facilitates improved health outcomes, with the ambitious goal of ending homelessness.

***Anna Shapiro, MD** has over 10 years of experience as a Psychiatrist, including at the day shelter, Boulder County Jail Staff Psychiatrist, and Assistant Clinical Professor at CU-School of Medicine. She is passionate about whole-person care, addressing trauma, and educating patients and medical students. She enjoys hiking in her free time.*

***Amanda Smith, LCSW** has over 21 years of experience working with at-risk populations in diverse settings. Her passion is developing programs that increase health care access for people experiencing homelessness, SPMI, LGBTQIA+ communities, and a range of developmental needs. She is driven by the strong belief that healthy lives create healthy communities.*

***Roberta Sturgeon** has been with All Roads Homeless Shelter for 4 years, rising from a Case Manager role to Supervisor overseeing the team. Earlier in her career, she worked in low-income housing as a Property Manager, supporting high-risk populations and building a strong foundation in housing stability and client services.*

***Allison Ulness** is a CFHW Housing Case Manager embedded at All Roads Shelter. She earned her BSW in 2022 and is pursuing an Advanced Clinical Social Work Master's at MSU-Denver. Allison supports adults experiencing homelessness and severe mental illness, with a strong commitment to serving marginalized communities through compassionate, client-centered care.*

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#505 | BHA Panel | Operationalizing Colorado for ALL: A Unified Approach to Behavioral Health Access **Bd** **Cl**

Colorado is at a pivotal moment in behavioral health. Needs across communities are intensifying, systems are under strain, and expectations for accessible, high-quality care continue to rise. At the same time, BHA is reshaping how services are delivered toward a model that is more coordinated, equitable, and sustainable. The Colorado for ALL initiative represents a bold, statewide commitment to meeting this moment. Aligned with the mission of BHA, this initiative aims to ensure that every Coloradan, regardless of geography, background, or circumstance, can access comprehensive, coordinated behavioral health care.

***Meghan Shelton, LPC** serves as the BHA's Culture, Practice, and Accessibility Advisor and brings more than 25 years of leadership experience in behavioral health. Throughout her career, she has been dedicated to system improvement, equitable access to care, and ensuring that all voices are heard and all people can access the services they need when they need them. Meghan is committed to advancing Colorado for ALL by ensuring that its principles are embedded throughout the Behavioral Health Administration's work.*

***Marque Green, MS** is the Division Director of Technology and Data at BHA, where she leads teams focused on data science, engineering, governance, interoperability, and customer experience. With more than 12 years of experience across government, healthcare, aviation, and technology, she is dedicated to leveraging data and technology to improve decision-making and outcomes for the people behavioral health systems serve.*

***Elizabeth "Liz" Thomas** serves as BHA's Agricultural and Rural Program Administrator, where she collaborates across agencies, providers, and community partners to strengthen behavioral health support for agricultural and rural communities. Liz has dedicated her career to advocacy, outreach, and connecting rural communities with critical resources.*

***Alyssa Hetschel, LCSW, LAC** is a BHA Division Director who oversees the Colorado LIFTS network, connecting Coloradans to more than 250 low- and no-cost mental health, substance use, and crisis support providers through free, real-time care navigation. She has extensive leadership experience in behavioral health.*

***Marc Condojani, LCSW, CAS** is the Adult Behavioral Health Continuum Division Director at BHA, leading efforts to improve behavioral health and crisis services across Colorado. He is dedicated to identifying and reducing barriers to care, working collaboratively to redesign programs that improve access and outcomes. Marc has spent years focused on humanizing the systems that serve people in need.*

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Session Handouts

Download at www.cbhc.org after September 1, 2026



#506 | Membership Orgs & CBHC | Board Member Only Session:
Federal Policy in Motion: HR1, Medicaid Budget Pressures and Work Requirements in Colorado's Behavioral Health System

Bd

With the recent federal passage of HR1, Colorado now faces the critical tasks of implementation and understanding its real-world implications across the behavioral health system. This includes the role of HCPF as the Medicaid State Agency, RAEs as regional implementation partners, and community behavioral health providers (CSNPs & ESNPs) navigating the operational realities on the ground.

This session will explore how key components of HR1—including Medicaid community engagement (work requirements) and related federal policy changes—are expected to translate into practice. Bringing together perspectives from HCPF and Colorado's RAEs, the discussion will provide a grounded, real-time look at how these changes may impact access, operations, and system sustainability.

Attendees will gain insight into recent changes, anticipated challenges, areas of uncertainty, and opportunities for alignment as Colorado moves from federal policy to state and regional implementation. This session is designed to foster candid dialogue and shared understanding across leadership, with time for Q&A and discussion.

***Cristen Bates, MPH** is a dedicated public health executive with over 20 years of service to the community. She currently serves as the Office Director for Medicaid and CHP+ Behavioral Health Initiatives & Coverage and the Deputy Medicaid Director at the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), the state's Medicaid agency. Cristen has focused her public service efforts on improving healthcare policy, expanding access to behavioral health, and fighting stigma and systemic barriers to health.*

***Liz Owens** is the Chief External Relations Officer at Colorado Access, which is the state's largest public sector health plan with more than 500,000 members. Liz leads external-facing strategy across policy, communications, and government partnerships, including oversight of Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) and Child Health Plan Plus contracts.*

***Kari Snelson, LCSW, CHC** is a seasoned behavioral health executive with a track record of driving organizational success through strategic implementation and operational excellence. With over two decades of experience, Kari has consistently demonstrated her ability to lead teams, manage risk-based programs, and navigate complex regulatory environments. Her expertise lies in strategic planning, community engagement, board accountability, and program design and management. As Chief Executive Officer of Northeast Health Partners Regional Accountable Entity, Kari oversees the planning, operations, and compliance of state contracts. She has successfully implemented value-based payment models for behavioral health benefits and collaborated with state agencies to ensure contract compliance, serving over 150,000 Medicaid members in the region.*

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#600 | CCBHC and PPS in Practice: A Colorado Perspective**Bu**

Colorado already has a strong behavioral health safety net, including a prospective payment system (PPS) for Comprehensive Safety Net Providers (CSNPs). As the state moves to implement CCBHC and a new PPS, this session explores what that transition looks like in practice—and how shared accountability is being defined across providers and system partners.

***Melissa Eddleman, MSW, LCSW, MPA** is a seasoned healthcare professional with over 16 years of experience in Medicaid policy and administration. She has been a leader for behavioral health care for the last decade with the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. Melissa is the Department's Behavioral Health Initiatives and Coverage Office Deputy Director. Before transitioning into policy work, Melissa was a practicing clinician with expertise in substance use disorders (SUD). She holds a Master's of Social Work and Public Administration. She began her career in Florida, bringing a strong foundation in direct clinical care to her policy roles.*

***Steven Ihde, MS, PhD** is the Deputy Division Director of Managed Care Rates and Financial Review for the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) with over 11 years of experience. With a background in mathematics, he oversees the setting of managed care capitation rates and the development of behavioral health alternative payment models for HCPF.*

#601 | The AI Shift: How Patients Find Behavioral Healthcare Now**Bu**

AI is fundamentally changing how people search for and access behavioral health services—and most providers aren't ready. This session breaks down the new client discovery journey across three pillars: how AI-driven search is replacing traditional SEO, how behavioral health websites must evolve to convert higher-intent visitors, and what a functional modern marketing team actually looks like. Attendees will leave with a clear framework for auditing their digital presence, practical tactics to improve visibility and conversion, and a realistic roadmap for adapting marketing operations to the AI era.

***Timothy A. Zercher MBA** is CEO of A-Train Marketing, a nationally recognized behavioral health marketing agency serving clients in 32 states. Known for blending sharp strategy with real data, Tim has driven transformational growth for organizations like North Range Behavioral Health and Jefferson Center through SEO/AEO, high conversion websites, and results-driven digital campaigns.*

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#602 | Do as I Say, Not as I Do? Applying Behavioral Health's Expertise to Support the Workforce



Behavioral health providers face high turnover and elevated suicide risks, yet an unspoken belief persists that suffering is a prerequisite for helping. This session explores the systemic stressors driving this crisis and introduces tangible strategies for organizations to move from toxic resilience to authentic, peer and leadership supported retention.

Cheri Skelding, LCSW is a behavioral health leader with 25+ years of experience in crisis systems, program development, and organizational strategy. A founding executive at Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners, she helped establish Colorado's statewide crisis and peer support line and specializes in workplace mental health, peer support, and sustainable systems change.

Brandon Wilcox brings 17 years of behavioral health experience focused on peer support, workforce development, and systems change. He helped create the Colorado Peer Support Credential and received the 2017 George DelGrosso Visionary Leadership Award. Brandon is recognized for advancing lived-experience leadership, developing teams, and strengthening behavioral health systems across Colorado.

#603 | Microdosing Psychedelics in Clinical Practice: A Holistic Framework for Mental Health Integration



This session offers mental health clinicians an integrative framework for understanding microdosing psychedelics and its context within clinical practice. Drawing on emerging research and holistic principles, it explores how psilocybin, LSD, and mescaline interact with lifestyle, relational, and psychological factors. Ethical considerations, safety, and scope-of-practice boundaries equip practitioners to recognize, understand, and engage in informed, responsible conversations with clients who may already be exploring microdosing independently.

Jessica Eden, LCSW, LAC, ADS-RT, NMIT is an Integrative Therapist whose work bridges clinical mental health care with spirituality, nature-based healing, and psychedelic-informed practice. Passionate about holistic transformation and community access, she specializes in helping clients explore microdosing and plant-medicine integration as part of a whole-person approach to mental health, harm reduction, and mind/body/spirit connection.

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#604 | Beyond Alignment: Practical Strategies for Behavioral Health–Public Health Collaboration

With Colorado advancing the CCBHC model, behavioral health providers become community anchors, expanding care access, coordination, and equity. This session offers actionable strategies for partnering with public health agencies, who have prioritized behavioral health. Providers can leverage public health data for cross-sector collaboration and drive impactful, community-level behavioral health solutions.

***Shannon Breitzman, MA** is Managing Director of Population Health at Health Management Associates. She has more than 25 years of leadership in public and behavioral health. She played a central role in Colorado's behavioral health reform, and has led statewide needs assessments, system design, and prevention strategies spanning suicide, opioid misuse, and mental health promotion, supporting state and local agencies nationwide.*

***Margot Swift, MPH** is a seasoned public health professional with a strong interest in harm reduction, substance use, and justice-involved populations. She earned an MPH in health policy and management from the SUNY Downstate Medical Center School of Public Health and a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Macalester College.*

***Robyn Odendahl, MPA** is a Principal with more than 10 years of experience in public health and behavioral health research, evaluation, and planning. She leads community-engaged needs assessments, behavioral health system evaluations, and substance use prevention studies, translating qualitative and quantitative data into actionable strategies for health departments, policymakers, and community-based organizations.*

#605 | Everything Under One Roof: Practical Lessons in Building Integrated Behavioral Health Care

Behavioral health systems often struggle with fragmentation despite expanding services. This session explores a practical, outpatient model of integrated behavioral health informed by the U.S. Army's Learning Mental Health Care System, highlighting communication, measurement, and coordination strategies that improve access, outcomes, and sustainability.

***Briana Tillman, DO, MED** is a Board-Certified Psychiatrist and Clinic Director at Family Care Center in Colorado Springs, where she leads integrated behavioral health services across multidisciplinary teams. She is particularly interested in educating the next generation of providers and advancing clinical practice through community and professional initiatives supporting mental health.*

***Allison Pokrzywa, PA-C, MPH** completed her Master's of Physician Assistant Studies training at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where she also earned a Master's of Public Health with a focus on population health and patient-centered care. She began her career in physical medicine and rehabilitation before transitioning to outpatient psychiatry. Allison currently serves as the Senior Director of APP Clinical Services at Family Care Center, where she partners with psychiatric providers and drives initiatives to elevate clinical excellence and standardize care across the organization.*



#700 | ALIGN to Thrive: A Human-Centered, Measurable Approach to Change for Behavioral Health Teams

CI Bd Bu

Explore the ALIGN Framework for Change: A five-step method for today's evolving behavioral health landscape. Integrating business strategy with human insight, this session equips leaders to clarify challenges, align stakeholders, and make values-anchored decisions. Build trust, strengthen communication, and embed disciplined execution habits to turn static plans into sustainable results.

Steven Haden, MSW, MBA, CPRP is Managing Partner of Ripple Effect Partners, specializing in behavioral health systems transformation and inclusive strategy. With 30 years of consulting and clinical social work practice, he integrates executive leadership with frontline experience to advance health equity. Formerly CEO of Envision:You, Steven holds an MBA and MSW.

#701 | Trauma, Oppression, and Audism: Clinical Implications for Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities

CI

This session explores how trauma, audism, communication barriers, and systemic inequities impact Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities. Participants will examine clinical misdiagnosis, language deprivation, and healthcare disparities through culturally responsive, trauma informed approaches. Case examples and practical strategies will support clinicians in reducing harm, improving engagement, and fostering equitable mental health care.

Paula DuPont, LCSW is a Therapist at WellPower providing outpatient and school-based services across the lifespan. They specialize in culturally and linguistically responsive care for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind community and serve on the boards of Deaf Overcoming Violence and Empowerment (DOVE) and the Colorado Daylight Partnership. Marja Possner (shelher) is a Deaf Person of Color adopted from South Korea, with 20 years of experience in nonprofit leadership, advocacy, training, and consultation. Her work spans board service and statewide policy initiatives, including advancing accessible behavioral health systems for Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities through equity-centered, intersectional expertise.

#702 | From Badge to Behavioral Health: Building Colorado's Crisis Response System in Real Time

Bd Bu

Drawing on experience as a former law enforcement officer and current Director of Colorado's 988 Mental Health Line, the leader of this session explores how public safety realities can inform behavioral health system design. Participants will learn practical lessons from Colorado's 988 implementation, including leadership, workforce sustainability, cross-system collaboration, governance, and crisis system transformation.

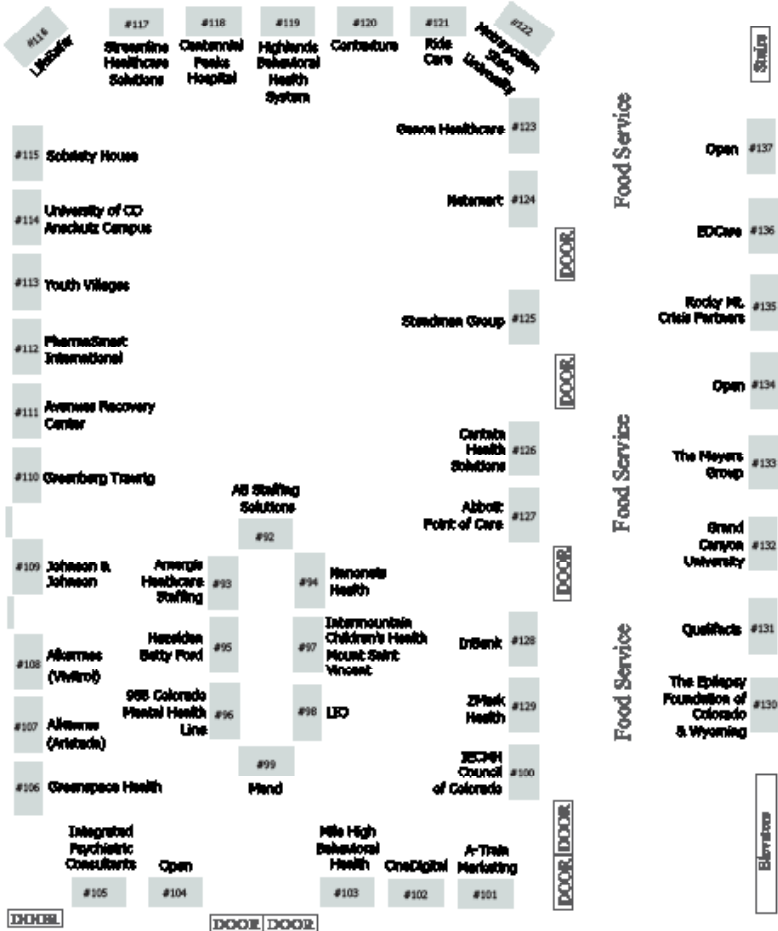
Gordon R. Coombes, MA serves as Director of the 988 Colorado Mental Health Line within the Colorado Behavioral Health Administration, where he leads statewide crisis system development, enterprise strategy, workforce initiatives, and partnerships across behavioral health, public safety, and community organizations.

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Exhibit Hall | (Colorado Ballroom)



Food Service Times and Locations

(See Schedule for Coffee Breaks)

- Thursday | 7:45am - 8:45am | Breakfast in Exhibit Hall
- Thursday | 12:00pm - 1:30pm | Lunch in Exhibit Hall
- Friday | 7:45am - 8:45am | Breakfast in Exhibit Hall
- Friday | 12:00pm - 1:30pm | Lunch in Exhibit Hall
- Saturday | 7:00am - 8:00am | Breakfast in Exhibit Hall



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Colorado Behavioral
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CBHC Industry Partner Program

For more information [click here](#).



CBHC would like to thank all our Industry Partners!

Platinum Industry Partner



Your Guide to Strategic Marketing

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The CBHC Industry Partner Program is designed to connect mission-aligned organizations that share our vision of advancing community-based mental health and substance use disorder services across Colorado. By engaging as an Industry Partner, your organization helps strengthen the statewide behavioral health system and supports CBHC's mission to move lives forward through advocacy, collaboration, and innovation.

Through this program, we work together to:

- *Expand visibility and engagement within Colorado's behavioral health network, creating opportunities to connect with providers and decision-makers.*
- *Contribute expertise, research, and resources that advance the quality, accessibility, and sustainability of mental health and substance use disorder treatment.*
- *Collaborate as part of a statewide coalition of providers and stakeholders committed to building healthier, stronger communities.*

The Industry Partner Program reflects CBHC's belief that collaboration is key. By working in partnership, we can both support your organization's goals and advance a shared mission to improve behavioral health outcomes for individuals and families across Colorado.

If you are interested in becoming a CBHC Industry Partner, please contact Brittany Langevin at blangevin@cbhc.org.



Thank You to Our Partners in Education



Colorado
Mental Health
Line

#96 | 988 Colorado Mental Health Line
Sponsor of Water Bottles | 710 S. Ash Street,
Denver CO 80246 | 303.866.7400
www.988colorado.com

988 is the easy-to-remember number that allows anyone with emotional, mental health or substance use concerns to be immediately connected with a trained specialist who will listen without judgment. 988 is free, confidential and available 24/7. If you or someone you know is struggling, call or text 988 or live chat at 988Colorado.com.



#92 | AB Staffing Solutions | 3451 Mercy Road, #102,
Gilbert, AZ 85297 | 866.817.5598 | www.abstaffing.com

AB Staffing Solutions has been a leader in the market since 2002; we've built an exceptional database of qualified healthcare professionals. Whether you're looking for a BHT, MHT, LCSW, Physician, or RN/LPN our seasoned experts will work diligently to support the needs of your facility.



#127 | Abbott Point of Care Diagnostics | 400 College
Road East, Princeton, NJ 08540 | 303.882.3374 &
800.366.8020 | www.globalpointofcare.abbott

The i-STAT 1, i-STAT Alinity and Piccolo Xpress systems help deliver collaborative, patient centered care and can drive performance in a variety of healthcare settings. In minutes, these products can deliver lab-quality results and accurate record-keeping. This allows healthcare professionals to quickly respond to any need and condition where and when care is needed.



#107 | Alkermes Inc. (Aristada)
#108 | Alkermes Inc. (Vivitrol)
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Waltham, MA 02451 | 720.355.3938
www.alkermes.com

Alkermes is a global biopharmaceutical company developing innovative medicines for the treatment of central nervous system (CNS) diseases. The company has a diversified commercial product portfolio and a substantial clinical pipeline of product candidates for chronic diseases that include schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and addiction.



#93 | Amergis Healthcare Staffing | 143 Union Blvd., Suite
1000, Lakewood, CO 80228 | 303.322.7108
www.amergis.com

Amergis Government Services specializes in providing personalized workforce solutions for various government agencies, including federal, state, and local entities. We focus on addressing staffing shortages and ensuring that qualified professionals are available to meet the needs of public and private agencies.



#101 | **A-Train Marketing**
CBHC Platinum Industry Partner
155 E. Boardwalk Drive, Suite 400, Fort
Collins, CO 80525 | 970.419.3218
www.atrainmarketing.com

Your Guide to Strategic Marketing

A-Train Marketing is a nationally recognized strategic marketing agency that specializes in behavioral health. With clients in 32 states, they are trusted advisors to CBHCs, and private behavioral health clinics, addiction treatment clinics, and CBHCs, helping their clients scale their impact through unique branding, cutting edge SEO/AIO, high-conversion websites, and results-driven digital campaigns.



#111 | **Avenues Recovery Center** | 1820 S. Potomac St.,
Aurora, CO 80012 | 720.686.6060
www.avenuesrecovery.com

Avenues Recovery Center operates two premier facilities in Colorado, located in Aurora and Fort Collins. We provide comprehensive services including medical detoxification and co-occurring residential treatment for adults seeking recovery from substance use. Our programs are in-network with most commercial insurance plans, Tricare, VA benefits, and all Colorado Medicaid RAEs.



#126 | **Cantata Health Solutions** | *Sponsor of*
Coffee Breaks | 2303 Ranch Road, 620 South
Suite 160, #523, Lakeway, TX 78734
877.290.3296 | www.cantatahealth.com

Cantata Health Solutions is transforming behavioral healthcare with our modern EHR solution, Arize. Developed by experts with deep industry experience, Arize is designed to simplify workflows and eliminate the frustrations of outdated systems—putting users in control with configurable tools that work the way they work.



#118 | **Centennial Peaks Hospital** | 2255 S. 88th St.,
Louisville, CO 80027 | 303.673.9990
www.centennialpeaks.com

At Centennial Peaks Hospital, your health is our priority. We treat a wide range of disorders and conditions related to your mental wellbeing. Our behavioral health hospital, located in Louisville, CO, strives to deliver excellent service while keeping your needs, goals, and wellness in mind. We exist to help you through the behavioral and psychiatric challenges you face. Our entire mission is bringing best-in-class care to every patient—no exceptions.



Colorado Access | *Sponsor of Water Bottles*
4643 South Ulster St., Suite 700, Denver, CO
80237 | 800.511.5010 | www.coaccess.com

Colorado Access is the largest and most experienced public health sector health plan in the state, working to build better individual health by partnering with communities to create access to quality, affordable care for all Coloradans. As a nonprofit organization with 30 years of experience, the company is committed to advancing meaningful, measurable improvements in delivering health care to improve the lives and whole-person health of members with Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) and Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) in the counties they serve. Learn more at coaccess.com.



contexture
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#120 | Contexture | 2000 S. Colorado Blvd., Tower 1,
Suite 12000, Denver, CO 80222 | 844.279.7120

www.contexture.org

Contexture is a nonprofit, regional organization that provides strategic, technical and administrative support to communities committed to advancing health through information sharing. With headquarters in Denver and Phoenix, Contexture is the largest health information organization in the western United States.



#136 | EDCare | 4100 E. Mississippi Ave., Suite 1300,
Denver, CO 80246 | 303.771.0861

www.eatingdisorder.care

www.eatingdisorder.care

Founded in 2001, EDCare provides specialized eating disorder treatment for individuals ages 13 and older through personalized, evidence-based care. Programs include Athlete EDGE, designed for athletes navigating recovery and performance concerns. EDCare is in-network with most insurance plans, including Colorado Medicaid and TRICARE West. Complimentary assessments and housing options are available.



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1801 California St., Suite 2900,
Denver, CO 80202 | 303.861.4545
[www.forvismazars.us/about-us/
locations/denver-co](http://www.forvismazars.us/about-us/locations/denver-co)

Forvis Mazars helps healthcare organizations unlock their full potential and supports their pursuit of achieving health for their enterprises and those they serve. We provide holistic and tailored assurance, tax, and consulting services designed to help you develop and hone the core capabilities necessary to navigate the dynamic healthcare landscape and drive value, quality, and results.



#123 | Genoa Healthcare | 707 S. Grady Way, Renton, WA
98057 | 888.436.6279 | www.genoahealthcare.com

Genoa Healthcare is the largest provider of behavioral health pharmacy and medication management services for individuals with behavioral health and other complex, chronic health conditions in the U.S. We are dedicated to improving the lives of these individuals, and that dedication has not wavered in 20 years.



#132 | Grand Canyon University | 3300 W. Camelback
Road, Phoenix, AZ 85017 | 970.250.2476
<https://c.gcu.edu/jenni.zimmer>

Grand Canyon University is a private Christian university offering an affordable and transformative higher education. GCU offers over 345 academic programs, including over 280 online, as of June 2024. Choose from our vibrant campus or online learning community. Find your purpose at GCU. Private. Christian. Affordable. Visit gcu.edu



#110 | Greenberg Traurig, LLP | *Sponsor of
Coffee Breaks* | 1144 15th St., Suite 3300,
Denver, CO 80202 | 303.5726500
Greenberg Traurig LLP

Greenberg Traurig is a global, multi-practice law firm with more than 3,000 attorneys across 50+ offices worldwide. The firm advises corporations and individuals on complex matters, including transactions, litigation, regulatory issues, and real estate, and is known for its focus on innovation, collaboration, and meaningful community engagement.

greenspace #106 | Greenspace Health | 39 Glenforest Road, Toronto, ON, Canada, M4N 1Z7 | 888.446.6602
www.greenspacehealth.com

Greenspace believes that every person accessing behavioral health services should receive high quality care that helps them thrive. They have partnered with over 500 organizations across North America to implement measurement-based care (MBC) and improve outcomes for the people they serve.

 **Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation** #95 | Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation
Sponsor of Pre-Conference #2 | 15251 Pleasant Valley Road, Center City, MN 55012
800.328.9000 | [The ASAM Criteria](http://TheASAMCriteria.com)


Hazelden Betty Ford's Publishing and Consulting and Training teams provide professionals comprehensive evidence-based products and solutions. That includes our Comprehensive Opioid Response (COR) model and serve as the exclusive publisher of *The ASAM Criteria, Fourth Edition Volume 1: Adults; Volume 2: Adolescents and Transition-Aged Youth*; and two upcoming volume releases.

 #119 | Highlands Behavioral Health System | 8565 Poplar Way, Littleton, CO 80130 | 720.348.2800
www.highlandsbhs.com

Highlands Behavioral Health System is an 86-bed freestanding behavioral health hospital offering psychiatric care for adults and adolescents ages 12 and older. The facility is easily accessible to families throughout the Denver metro area. Our mission is to empower our patients as they navigate their journey from crisis to wellness.

infant & early childhood mental health council of colorado #100 | IECMH Council of Colorado
Sponsor of Conference Badges
710 S. Ash St., Glendale, CO 80246
303.916.8316
www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org/iecmhadvisorycouncil

The Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Council of Colorado (IECMH Council) is a collaborative of partners who leverage their expertise and experience to guide the development and implementation of a robust, equitable, accessible continuum of mental health services for pregnant persons, infants, young children, their families, and communities.

 **INBANK** #128 | InBank | 3615 Delgany St., Suite 1010, Denver, CO 80216 | 303.406.4671 | www.InBank.com
InBank is a \$1.3 billion bank headquartered in Colorado which specializes in healthcare banking. Our seasoned team of healthcare bankers provides sophisticated treasury management products, corporate card and financing for real estate, equipment and working capital needs.

 **INTEGRATED PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTANTS** #105 | **Integrated Psychiatric Consultants**
CBHC Bronze Industry Partner
7501 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66210
316.833.2976 | www.integrated-pc.com

We are a behavioral health management staffing group. We provide psychiatric professionals to organizations such as CCBHC, CBHC, FQHC, hospitals, addiction treatment, eating disorders and any others that are in needs of Psychiatrists, PNP, or Therapists. Our services can be tele, onsite or hybrid.



Mount Saint Vincent
Preschool | Pediatric Behavioral Health | Foster Care

families through integrated pediatric behavioral health programs that combine education, therapy, and family partnership to help children gain confidence, resilience, and lifelong skills.

**#97 | Intermountain Children's Health Mount Saint Vincent | 4159 Lowell Blvd., Denver, CO 80211
303.458.7220 | www.msvchildrenshealth.org**

Intermountain Children's Health Mount Saint Vincent partners with children and families to heal beyond trauma and build healthy, hopeful futures. For more than 140 years, we've supported Colorado families through integrated pediatric behavioral health programs that combine education, therapy, and family partnership to help children gain confidence, resilience, and lifelong skills.

Johnson & Johnson

**#109 | Johnson & Johnson | *Sponsor of Breakfast*
1125 Trenton-Harbourton Road, Titusville, NJ
08560 | 609.737.2699 | www.jnj.com**

Johnson & Johnson is a global healthcare leader, committed to solving the toughest health challenges and transforming lives through research, development, manufacture and distribution of innovative medicines and medical technologies. The company's Innovative Medicine business advances breakthrough science and develops transformational treatments in areas like oncology, immunology, neuroscience, and cardiopulmonary. In MedTech, the company is focused on developing and delivering cardiovascular, orthopedics, surgery, and vision solutions. Visit jnj.com to learn more.

LifeSafer

**#116 | LifeSafer | 3630 Park 42 Drive, Suite 140C,
Cincinnati, OH 45241 | 919.520.0975 | www.lifesafers.com**

LifeSafer is a leader in vehicle safety solutions, with over 35 years of experience protecting drivers and communities. The company specializes in ignition interlock devices, alcohol monitoring, and speed management programs that promote responsible behavior, reduce impaired driving, and support safer roads through reliable technology, nationwide service, and trusted expertise.

LIO

**#98 | LIO | Bee House, 140 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park,
Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 4SB, United Kingdom
+44 7535 002634 | www.liohealth.com**

LIO is the all-in-one platform for inpatient mental health, combining digital rounding, ambient monitoring and compliance reporting. Its contactless, FDA-cleared technology supports frontline teams and leaders with accurate, data-driven insights. Trusted across the US and UK, LIO improves safety, quality and efficiency while strengthening adherence to regulatory standards.

mend

**#99 | Mend | *Conference Partner
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Lounge Sponsor*
4767 New Broad St., Orlando,
FL 32814 | 866.934.2713
www.mend.com**

Community mental health organizations look to Mend to improve the patient experience and provide convenient access to care for everyone. The Mend approach empowers providers, staff, and patients to streamline communications through digital health solutions resulting in a better patient intake and check-in process and telehealth experience for both in-person and virtual care.



**MSU
DENVER**
Master of Science
in Clinical
Behavioral Health,
Emphasis in
Addictions Counseling

**#122 | Metropolitan State University of Denver,
Department of Human Services and Counseling
890 Auraria Parkway, Denver, CO 80204 | 303.556.5740
Master of Science in Clinical Behavioral Health, Emphasis
in Addictions Counseling Graduate Program -MSU Denver**
The Master's of Science in Clinical Behavioral Health,
emphasis in Addictions Counseling program prepares students

to work in a variety of treatment and recovery settings. Students will integrate research, skill development, education in treatment and recovery, evidence-based practices, and field work in treatment and recovery. This program meets the educational requirements one needs to pursue licensure as a Licensed Addictions Counselor (LAC) and Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in Colorado.



**Mile High
Behavioral
Healthcare**

**#103 | | Mile High Behavioral Healthcare
Sponsor of Networking Reception
4242 Delaware St., Denver, CO 80216
303.825.8113 | www.mhbhc.org**

Mile High Behavioral Healthcare offers integrated mental health, substance use, and housing services for people facing

trauma, addiction, and instability. Their inclusive programs support adolescents, adults, veterans, and LGBTQIA+ individuals through counseling, medical care, recovery support, and case management, helping clients build stability, resilience, and long-term wellness.



Nanonets Health
Revenue Cycle Management AI

**#94 | Nanonets Health | 2261 Market St., Suite 4010,
San Francisco, CA 94114 | 760.477.4028
www.nanonets.health**

Nanonets Health builds AI agents that automate end-to-end RCM operations for behavioral health providers across intake, EBV, prior authorization and reimbursement workflows. 100+ behavioral health clinics currently use our AI agents and typically see 15–20% higher revenue and 70–80% lower administrative FTE costs within the first three months.



Netsmart

**#124 | Netsmart | 11100 Nall Ave., Overland Park, KS
66211 | 800.842.1973 | www.ntst.com**

Netsmart is an Overland Park, Kansas-based SaaS company that designs, builds and delivers electronic health records, health information exchanges, analytics, care coordination, and telehealth solutions and services for the human services, post-acute and payer communities.



ONEDIGITAL

**#102 | OneDigital | *CBHC Silver Industry Partner*
9781 S. Merdian Blvd., Suite 110, Englewood, CO
80112 | 720.203.3907 | www.onedigital.com**

Customized solutions for the people who support Colorado communities. At OneDigital, we understand the complex challenges behavioral healthcare organizations face from workforce shortages to rising operational costs. As a trusted resource, we deliver strategic HR, benefits, and financial solutions designed to support the people behind the mission.



PharmaSmart® #112 | PharmaSmart International | 125 Indigo Creek Drive, Suite 10, Rochester, NY 14626 | 800.781.0323

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www.pharma-smart.com

PharmaSmart International manufactures and distributes best in class, clinically validated biometric kiosks and digital tools to help patients, pharmacists and physicians better manage hypertension and other related disease states.



QUALIFACTS™ #131 | Qualifacts | 315 Deaderick St., Suite 2300, Nashville, TN 37238 | 866.386.6755

www.qualifacts.com

We're your partners in care. Qualifacts is the leading behavioral health technology partner, specializing in AI-powered electronic health record (EHR) software and data solutions. Putting the health of individuals first, our award-winning solutions enable providers and staff to spend more time on what matters most: delivering superior care that drives better outcomes.



#121 | Ride Care | 2402 Westport Drive, Norman, OK 73072 | 405.957.5371 | www.ridecaretransportation.com

Ride Care has provided secure transportation throughout Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, and Arkansas for 5 years. We currently partner with the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and

Substance Abuse Services, local hospitals, tribal entities, court systems, jails/prisons, and multiple statewide agencies. We provide voluntary and involuntary transportation for anyone with a mental health or substance use diagnosis.



#135 | Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners | PO Box 460695, Denver, CO 80246 | 303.928.7100
www.rmcrisispartners.org

Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners helps workplaces and communities build practical systems of care. We provide mental health, suicide prevention, peer support, training, and crisis response services that

strengthen connection, improve readiness, and support people through difficult moments. Our programs turn compassion into clear, sustainable action when it matters.



#115 | Sobriety House | 121 Acoma St., Denver, CO 80223 | 720.381.4337 (intake line)
www.sobrietyhouse.org

A nonprofit drug and alcohol treatment center providing licensed residential treatment, outpatient treatment, and sober living services

to men and women aged 18 and older. We specialize in supporting individuals experiencing poverty or homelessness, regardless of ability to pay.





#125 | Steadman Group | *Sponsor of Coffee Breaks* | 4460 Aaron Place, Boulder, CO 80303 | 402.659.4247 | www.steadmangroup.com

The Steadman Group is a Colorado-based, woman-owned Public Benefit Corporation consulting on behavioral health and Medicaid. This year, we're proud to unveil Substance Use First Aid, the first community-based, secondary adult substance use prevention initiative, as well as the 2nd annual National Opioid Settlement Conference coming in June.



#117 | Streamline Healthcare Solutions | 1301 W. 22nd St., Suite 305, Oak Brook, IL 60523 | 877.467.4741 www.streamlinehealthcare.com

Founded in 2003, Streamline Healthcare Solutions delivers enterprise-grade software purpose-built for the Behavioral Health and Human Services market. Our SmartCare platform supports the full continuum of behavioral health services through a unified, configurable EHR designed to drive clinical, financial, and operational success. Elevating organizational performance and empowering better outcomes.



#130 | The Epilepsy Foundation of Colorado & Wyoming | 6025 S. Quebec St., Suite 150, Centennial, CO 80111 | 303.569.6716 | www.epilepsycoloradowyoming.org

The Epilepsy Foundation of CO & WY fights epilepsy through community. Our vision is that no one faces epilepsy alone. Our

Mission is to improve the lives of those affected by epilepsy through education, advocacy, research, and connection.



#133 | The Meyers Group | 11700 Old Georgetown Road, Suite 705, Rockville, MD 20852 | 301.625.5600 www.mr-themeyersgroup.com

The Meyers Group is dedicated to meeting your staffing needs - permanent, temporary or contract. We have a successful track record spanning more than two decades as the premier national search firm in Behavioral Health. With extensive experience as leaders ourselves, we bring "Impact Players" to our clients!



Department of Psychiatry
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

#114 | University of Colorado Anschutz Campus | Department of Psychiatry | 1890 N. Revere Court, Suite 4003, Aurora, CO 80045 | 303.724.4940 <https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/psychiatry>

The CU Department of Psychiatry advances mental health through innovative training, research, and clinical care. We lead efforts to reduce the impact of psychiatric and substance use disorders, promote statewide well-being through key partnerships, and foster an inclusive, growth-focused environment that supports excellence and career advancement across our community.

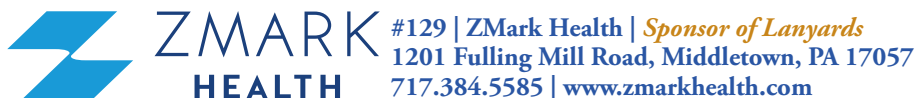




#113 | Youth Villages | 3320 Brother Blvd., Memphis, TN 38133 | 877.983.6767 | www.youthvillages.org

Every child should have the opportunity to reach for their dreams. Over 35 years, Youth Villages has worked to radically improve the lives of children across the country through an array of program

models and services built around preserving and restoring families. We do what works — partner with others to expand our reach and advocate for positive, long-term change in child welfare, juvenile justice and children’s mental health systems.



ZMark Health delivers innovative revenue cycle, credentialing, and advisory solutions tailored to behavioral health organizations. Our credentialing services are powered by exydoc—our proprietary provider data management platform built to enhance data accuracy, streamline enrollments, and improve compliance. We help organizations reduce administrative burden and operate more efficiently while staying focused on quality patient care.

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Colorado Behavioral
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