

2026 CBHC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONFERENCE



Meeting the Moment for Communities

September 30 - October 3, 2026

Beaver Run Resort & Conference Center | Breckenridge, Colorado

📌 Clinical 📌 Board 📌 Business/Upper Management

Wednesday | September 30, 2026 | CBHC Pre-Conference Workshops

8:00am - 4:00pm
8:00am - 4:00pm

- #1 Pre-Con Workshop 📌📌📌 | Behavioral Health Trainings: Building the Future of Prevention, Education, and Community Impact | [See full description here](#)
- #2 Pre-Con Workshop 📌📌📌 | Meeting the Moment With AI: A Practical Playbook for Behavioral Health Leaders and Clinicians | Jonathan Liebert, MA

Thursday | October 1, 2026 | CBHC Conference

8:45am - 10:30am

Keynote & Mental Health First Aid Awards | 📌📌📌
Meeting the Moment: Moving Beyond Coping to Build Resilient, Connected Communities | Johnny Crowder, CRPS-Y/IA

10:30am - 11:00am

Coffee Break | Visit the Exhibits & Sponsors in the Colorado Ballroom

11:00am - 12:00pm

- #100 📌📌 | Keeping Coloradans Covered: Preventing Medicaid Coverage Loss Under HR1 | Liz Owens
- #101 📌📌 | Bypassing a Bachelor's Degree: How Alternative Admissions to an MA Degree Can Revolutionize Workforce Development | Kevin Doyle, EdD, LPC
LSATP & John Solomon, LPC
- #102 📌 | Beyond Compliance: How Actionable Data Supports Sustainable Behavioral Health Care | Dorota Carpenedo, MPH & Robyn Odendahl, MPA
- #103 📌 | Ghost Asylums: When Families Become the System for Psychotic Disorders | Kelly Comcowich, MA & Robin Predny, LPCC, MS, MA
- #104 📌📌 | Elevating the Voices of People with Lived Experience | Latisha Quintana, LCSW; Jennifer Turner, MSW; Lotie Elliott, HS; Barbara Vassis; Tyler Himmelstieb
- #105 📌📌 | Bridging Care and Community: Food Is Medicine in Behavioral Health | Mindy Klowden, MNM & Marti Macchi, DrPH, MPH, MEd
- #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

12:00pm - 1:30pm

Lunch/Meetings | Attendees Lunch | CCBHC; Data & Technology (CIO); MarComms Meeting (Invitation Only)

1:30pm - 3:00pm

- #200 📌 | A Perfect Storm: Why Trauma, Neuroscience, and Attachment are Fundamental Elements for Understanding the Science of Addiction | Meredith Buschart, MSW, LCSW & Anne Hellstrom, MEd, LPC
- #201 📌📌 | Gettin' By: How Poverty Changes the Brain, Which Changes Everything | Linda Riddell, MS
- #202 📌📌 | Safety Net Merger Experiences: From Concept to Reality in a Changing Environment | Jania Arnoldi, DHA, MBA & Simon Smith, MHA
- #203 📌📌 | Reimagining Youth Crisis Care: Key Takeaways from Implementation of the Youth Crisis Resolution Team in Weld County | Zhaelin Cruz, MSW; Natoshia Murray, LPCC; Samantha Santy, LCSW; Lyza Verosky, LCSW
- #204 📌📌 | For Everyone Who Takes Care of Everyone Else: Accessing Your Own Tools | Kat Atwell
- #205 📌 | Division of Fire and Prevention and the World of BHE's | Pete Anderson, FI-III, CLSS-HC & Craig Montoya, FI-III
- #206 📌📌📌 | From the Capitol to the Community: CBHC Budget and Policy Updates for 2026 | Frank Cornelia, MS, LPC; Veronica Bell, MPPA; Karen Wick, MPP; Gilbert Romero, JD

3:00pm - 3:30pm

Coffee Break | Visit the Exhibits & Sponsors in the Colorado Ballroom

3:30pm - 5:00pm

- #300 📌📌📌 | General Session BHA Panel | Meeting the Moment: A State Perspective on Youth and Family Systems of Care | Stephanie Beasley, MSW, BHA Commissioner & Gretchen Hammer, HCPF Executive Director
- #301 📌📌 | Side-by-Side: A Blueprint for Seamless CMHC and School Integration in Times of Crisis | Mary Alex Dill, LCSW & Alison Harris, PhD, LPC
- #302 📌📌 | Scaling Dyadic Solutions: A Roadmap for Sustainable Family Interventions in Colorado | Melissa Buchholz, PsyD; Anna Marie Neal, LSW; Julia L. Roguski, MA, LPC, CAC III; Jennifer Sommer Sheppard, LCSW, IMH-E
- #303 📌 | Technology, Social Media, and Antisocial Behavior in High-Risk Youth: Strategies to Strengthen Caregiver Control and Reduce Risk | Dana Garofalini, LMHC, LPC & Suzanne Kerns, PhD
- #304 📌📌 | SMI Barriers and Transitions: Collaboration Overcoming Complexity | Owen Love, MHA, MA, LPC, LAC, ACS & Bonnie Wright, MBA, MS
- #305 📌📌 | Advancing Quality Through Measurement-Based Care: A Real-World Implementation Journey | Cathie McLean, MA, LPC, CAS & Harry Williams
- #306 📌 | The Transformative Impact of Peer Support on Reducing Suicidality | Megan Bettenberg, MA, LPC & Marchell Taylor

5:15pm - 6:30pm

Networking Reception 📌📌📌 | For all attendees | (Colorado Ballroom) | Sponsored by Mile High Behavioral Healthcare & Bristol Myers Squibb

Friday | October 2, 2026

8:45am - 10:30am

Keynote & Golden Abacus/Golden Lightbulb Awards & CBHC Behavioral Health Legislative Champion Awards | 📌📌📌
Adaptive Leadership in Complex and Uncertain Times: The Power of Mindset and Resilience | Amer Kaissi, PhD

10:30am - 11:00am

Coffee Break | Visit the Exhibits & Sponsors in the Colorado Ballroom

11:00am - 12:00pm

- #400 📌📌 | Lessons Learned: 5 Years of Providing the Full SUD Continuum of Care | Jennifer Holcomb
- #401 📌📌 | Universal Adoption of Outcome Tools | Lindsay Gries, PsyD
- #402 📌📌 | Embracing AI in Clinical Training: One Counseling Program's Approach to Using AI for Good in Clinical Skill Development | Jane Flournoy, PhD, LMFT, LPC, LAC; Liz Catbagan, BA; Britt Feia, BA; Benjamin Keller, BA
- #403 📌📌 | Fulfilling a Century-Old Promise: The Integration of Housing and Behavioral Healthcare | Evan Caster & Tyler Jaeckel, JD, MPP
- #404 📌📌 | Community Engagement from Assessment to Presence | Biko Bloom-Fisher, MS
- #405 📌📌 | Promoting Parity Through Data: What Transparency in Coverage Means for Colorado Behavioral Health Providers | Mindy Klowden, MNM

12:00pm - 1:30pm

Lunch/Meetings | Attendees | Deputy Directors; CBHC Member CFO/Finance & Budget (Invitation Only)

12:00pm - 12:30pm

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

12:30pm - 1:30pm

Annual CBHC Board Meeting
CBHC Board Awards Ceremony & Lunch

1:30pm - 3:00pm

- #500 📌📌 | Colorado System of Care: Where Are We Now? | 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
- #501 📌📌 | From AI Chaos to Trust: Enterprise Governance for Colorado Behavioral Health Innovation | Brandon Ward, PsyD
- #502 📌📌 | When Reform Meets Reality: Practical Lessons from Colorado's Behavioral Health Overhaul | Gina Lasky, PhD; Shannon Breitzman, MA; Angela Bergefurd, MPA
- #503 📌📌 | Embracing the Shift: Tools for Reducing Tension and Increasing Performance Across Four Generations | Kathryn Cronin Miller, MSW, LCSW
- #504 📌 | Leading the Way Home: Integrated Health Services and Wraparound Supports for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness | Anna Shapiro, MD; Amanda Smith, LCSW; Roberta Sturgeon; Allison Ulness
- #505 📌📌 | BHA Panel | Operationalizing Colorado for ALL: A Unified Approach to Behavioral Health Access | Meghan Shelton, LPC; Marque Green, MS; Elizabeth "Liz" Thomas; Alyssa Hetschel, LCSW, LAC; Marc Condojani, LCSW, CAS

1:30pm - 3:00pm

#506 📌 | CBHC & Membership Org Board Members Only Session | (Imperial Ballroom)
Federal Policy in Motion: HR1, Medicaid Budget Pressures and Work Requirements in Colorado's Behavioral Health System

3:00pm - 3:30pm

Panel Presentations | Cristen Bates, MPH; Liz Owens; Kari Snelson, LCSW, CHC
Facilitated Discussion

3:00pm - 3:30pm

Coffee Break | Visit the Exhibits & Sponsors in the Colorado Ballroom

3:30pm - 4:30pm

- #600 📌 | CCBHC and PPS in Practice: A Colorado Perspective | Melissa Eddleman, MSW, LCSW, MPA & Steven Ihde, MS, PhD
- #601 📌 | The AI Shift: How Patients Find Behavioral Healthcare Now | Timothy, A. Zercher, MBA
- #602 📌📌 | Do as I Say, Not as I Do: Applying Behavioral Health's Expertise to Support the Workforce | Cheri L. Skelding, LCSW & Brandon Wilcox
- #603 📌 | Microdosing Psychedelics in Clinical Practice: A Holistic Framework for Mental Health Integration | Jessica Eden, LCSW, LAC, ADS-RT, NMIT
- #604 📌📌 | Beyond Alignment: Practical Strategies for Behavioral Health-Public Health Collaboration | Shannon Breitzman, MA; Robyn Odendahl, MPA; Margot Swift, MPH
- #605 📌📌 | Everything Under One Roof: Practical Lessons in Building Integrated Behavioral Health Care | Allison Pokrzywa, PA-C, MPH & Briana Tillman, DO, MEd

3:30pm - 4:30pm

CBHC & Membership Org Board Members Only Reception | (Imperial Ballroom)

Saturday | October 3, 2026

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

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

Register Now: [Click here](#) | Full program available online only this year at www.cbbc.org | Beaver Run Resort Hotel: [Click here](#)

\$60 | #1 Pre-Conference | (Wed Only) | Behavioral Health Trainings Workshop | Building the Future of Prevention, Education, and Community Impact

\$170 | #2 Pre-Conference | (Wed Only) | Meeting the Moment With AI: A Practical Playbook for Behavioral Health Leaders and Clinicians

(Wednesday workshops include all day training session, breakfast, lunch & coffee breaks)

\$500 | Full Conference | (Thur, Fri & Sat) | Full Conference (Includes Thursday, Friday, Saturday sessions, networking reception, breakfasts, lunches & coffee breaks)

\$560 | #1 PreCon + Full Conference | (Wed, Thur, Fri & Sat) | (Includes Wednesday workshop, and full conference sessions, networking reception, breakfasts, lunches & coffee breaks)

\$670 | #2 PreCon + Full Conference | (Wed, Thur, Fri & Sat) | (Includes Wednesday workshop, and full conference sessions, networking reception, breakfasts, lunches & coffee breaks)