



Meeting Minutes Behavioral Health and Integration Strategies (BHIS) PIAC Subcommittee

Virtual Meeting

February 2, 2022 9 AM - 10:30 AM

1. Introductions

Facilitators:

- Daniel Darting Signal Behavioral Health Network (Co-Chair)
- Matt Pfeifer Health Care Policy & Financing (Department Liaison)

Voting Members:

- Sue Williamson Colorado Children's Health Care Access Program (Co-Chair)
- Amanda Jones Community Reach Center
- Tom Keller Regional MEAC & PIAC, Statewide PIAC
- Nina Marinello SCL Health
- Mary Ellen Benson Diversus Health
- Imo Succo Southwestern Colorado Area Health Education Center

Other Attendees:

- Cris Matoush Rocky Mountain Health Plans
- Laura Don Tri-County Health Department
- Alan Girard Front Range Health Partners
- Suzanne Kinney Colorado Community Health Alliance
- Brace Gibson Colorado Perinatal Care Quality Collaborative
- Marjorie Champenoy Rocky Mountain Health Plans
- Leshia Mitchell Invest in Kids
- Bob Dyer Front Range Health Partners
- Haley Leonard Axis Health System
- Mattie Brister Mile High Health Alliance
- Mona Allen Health Colorado, Inc.
- Jenn Conrad Signal Behavioral Health
- Tona Collins The Arc of Arapahoe and Douglas Counties
- Elizabeth Baskett Public policy strategist
- Taylor Miranda-Thompson Colorado Community Health Network
- Marisa Gullicksrud Invest in Kids
- Joseph Anderson Colorado Access
- Susan Mathieu Farley Health Policy Center
- Stephanie Kirchner University of Colorado
- Bridie Johnson Colorado Coalition for the Homeless



- Pat Cook
 - Allison Daley
 - Doug Muir
- Colorado Gerontological Society
Partners for Children’s Mental Health
Centura Health

2. Housekeeping

Daniel Darting called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM. Minutes from the month of January 2022 were approved. No abstentions.

Matt Pfeifer confirmed with the group that the Public Health Emergency (PHE) is extended through April 16, 2022. The group is reminded that the federal government will provide a 60-day advance notice if the PHE will not be extended. The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (the Department) continues to [implement programs funded with American Rescue Plan Act](#) (ARPA) funds. The Department continues to focus on COVID-19 vaccine outreach.

Matt presented the regular update of Department of Correction (DOC) Behavioral Health (BH) BH engagement rate metric data. When the group first started reviewing this data the rate of engagement was 11.4%; as of August 2021 that rate has increased to 20%.

Matt then presented the 30-day BH engagement rate. There is more of a spread in this data, and the trend continues to increase. Matt presented breakdown by race and gender; females have a higher engagement rate than males. White Members have a higher rate of engagement than Members of color. Desired trend is that those numbers move closer together to minimize disparity.

BHIS member updates

- Tammy Phillips has stepped away from the subcommittee as a voting member.
- There are applications for the BHIS committee that will be sent to voting members for review and vote. The Department will follow-up via email.

3. Invest in Kids, Child First program presentation

Lesha Mitchell, Director of Community Partnerships at [Invest in Kids](#), joins the group to give a project overview and engage with the BHIS group around what else might make the program more successful.

In March 2020, Invest in Kids added the new Child First program to its statewide portfolio. Child First is an evidence-based, two-generation, home-based mental health intervention that serves young children and their families most impacted by systemic and structural inequities.



Goals of Child First:

- Promote child and parent emotional health
- Promote child development and learning
- Enhance parent and child executive capacity
- Prevent child abuse and neglect

Lesha provides more context on where the program fits in the continuum of care, the program's target population, and the intervention design. The Child First program utilizes a clinical team approach that includes a Family Support Partner and a mental health clinician.

Cohort 1 participants of the program include:

- Aurora Mental Health Center
- Savio
- San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group
- Tennyson Center for Children

Provider partners are currently able to bill the Health First Colorado behavioral health benefit for Child First services.

Recruitment for cohort two is underway, which will include another four or five provider agencies. The cohort two launch date has been delayed.

Lesha opens the discussion up to the BHIS group regarding what might make Child First successful.

- Imo Succo asks about different approaches used in response to different treatment modalities (e.g. telehealth). Currently the Child First program is being implemented via telehealth but will return to providing in-home services once possible.

Child First hopes to continue expansion and aims to have the same level of reach as the Nurse Family Partnership; ideally the Child First program would be available in all counties across Colorado.



Elizabeth Baskett notes that the Child First program addresses a lot of the [recommendations set forth by the Behavioral Health Task Force](#) in Colorado.

The group notes the importance of this program being in sync and connected with local schools.

Representatives from the Child First program share the vision that Colorado is not only seen as a physically healthy state but also a mentally healthy state. There is a possibility this presentation will be given to the State Program Improvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) as well.

The group discusses the importance of early intervention in behavioral health treatment.

4. Workforce discussion - charge from State PIAC

Daniel Darting re-introduces the discussion about statewide workforce challenges to the voting members of the BHIS committee.

During the January 2022 BHIS meeting, the group discussed their role in the larger conversation occurring around workforce shortage challenges. The BHIS group intends to be a collaborative partner in the discussion, and at the same time, the committee recognizes the need for a distinct leader in the space that has reach beyond the RAEs and the ACC. Daniel shared this perspective with the PIAC at the January PIAC meeting. This conversation will continue and BHIS will participate with the acknowledgment of previous strategies identified by the sub-committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2022. The meeting was adjourned.

