



Who's on First? Understanding State Agency Roles in Colorado's Behavioral Health Services

How Behavioral Health Administration and the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing regulate, administer, oversee, and finance behavioral health services and supports in Colorado



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Agenda

- Defining Publicly Funded Behavioral Health
- The role of Behavioral Health Administration (BHA)
- The role of the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF)
- How BHA and HCPF work together
- How to stay engaged

What You Will Learn Today

- You will learn about the roles of the two largest funders of public sector behavioral health in Colorado to engage in funding and quality improvement opportunities.
- You will be able to recognize the appropriate agency for questions about regulation, licensure, funding, or other operational considerations to further your engagement in the safety net system.
- You will be able to describe non-Medicaid and Medicaid public sector behavioral health services and recognize opportunities for new services or changes in services.



Defining Publicly Funded Behavioral Health

How is behavioral health funded in
Colorado?



What is Public Behavioral Health?

- Public behavioral health services are services paid for with public funds such as funding from federal, state and government agencies.
- Public behavioral health services are provided to the general public or to those individuals meeting the specific eligibility requirements for a program (when relevant).
- In Colorado, public behavioral health services are funded by a mix of federal funds and grants, state general funds, and state legislation which may leverage state funds or appropriated dollars.

What are Public Funding Sources for Colorado?

Behavioral health services and programs may be funded and overseen by multiple state agencies. These agencies receive funding from different federal agencies or other government sources.

Each of the state agencies below has funded behavioral health in the past or is currently funding behavioral health services and programs.



Who is Served by Public Funding?

This is a complex question and can vary from service to service and by funding source.

- Public funds are generally used for individuals and families with lower socioeconomic status such as individuals who have no insurance (often referred to as uninsured).
- Public funds can sometimes be used for individuals who have insurance, but lack coverage for a specific service (e.g., crisis care). Sometimes this situation is referred to as “under-insured”.
- Some public funds provide services or programming for everyone and all levels of insurance. (e.g., prevention activities or Colorado’s I Matter program).
- Medicaid funds are tied to eligibility based on a set of criteria.

Let's Take This a Step Forward: 3 Examples of Publicly Funded Behavioral Health Services in Colorado



Outpatient psychotherapy
for Medicaid Members

Federal Medicaid and State
Medicaid Funded service



Suicide Prevention in Schools

Federal Grant from the Substance
Abuse Mental Health Services
Administration (SAMHSA) called
"Project Aware"

Funds suicide prevention in schools



Free Behavioral health
services for youth (18 or
younger), or 21 or
younger if receiving
special education services

Legislative funding (House Bill
21-1258) to support the
I MATTER Program



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New to Public Behavioral Health?



Learn more about working within public behavioral health with the following resources:

- [HCPF Behavioral Health Reform](#)
- [Behavioral Health Administration Provider Resources](#)



Stay tuned for future training on what it means to be a safety net provider and how it may change your practice.

The Role of Behavioral Health Administration (BHA)

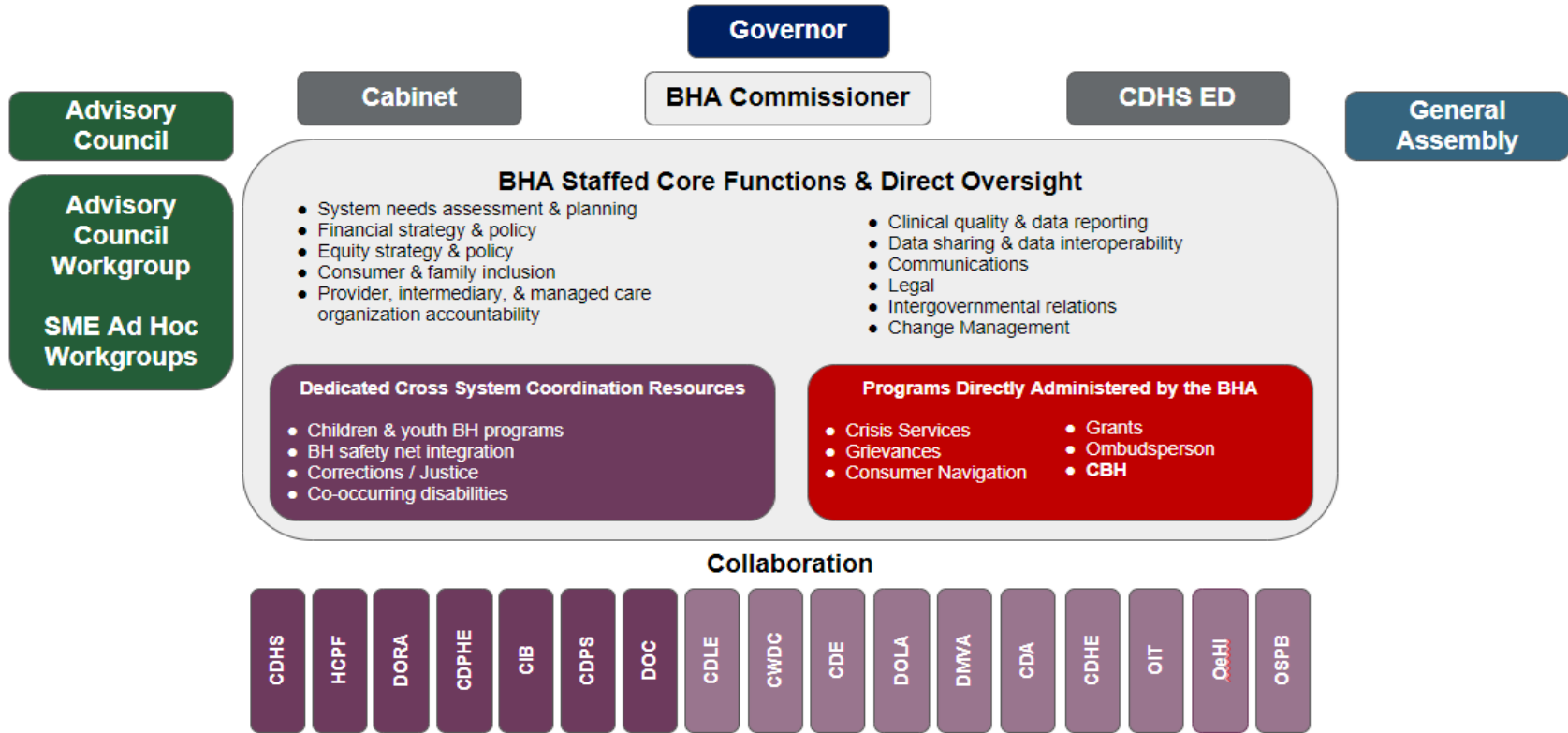


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What is Behavioral Health Administration (BHA)?

- BHA was created in 2021 through legislation to **lead the coordination of behavioral health efforts** across agencies, creating shared goals, improving collaboration, driving accountability and transparency for a **person-centered, outcome-oriented, and consumer and data-driven** behavioral health system for ALL Coloradans.
- In shifting to BHA, a **Cabinet Member Commissioner** was added to lead BHA and support cross-agency coordination of behavioral health.
- BHA is housed within the Department of Human Services.

BHA is Designed to Improve the Entire Behavioral Health System





Introduction to BHA

BHA will:

- **Elevate the voice of Consumers and Family Members** with lived experience of behavioral health in Colorado.
- **Problem solve** and implement solutions through **collaboration** and effective relationships.
- Enhance and focus on **whole-person care** and improve the quality of care for complex populations including prevention.



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HMA
HEALTH MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES

BHA's Purpose, Vision and Mission



All people in Colorado
deserve to experience
whole person health



Behavioral health
services in Colorado
are accessible,
meaningful, and
trusted



Co-create a people-
first behavioral health
system that meets the
needs of all people in
Colorado



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BHA Values



COLLABORATION

Working in partnership to realize a holistic behavioral health vision



COMMUNITY- INFORMED PRACTICE

Integrating evidence-based guidance with lived expertise



EQUITY

Naming root causes of injustices and allocating the necessary resources to support desired outcomes



GENERATIONAL IMPACT

Engaging in meaningful and thoughtful action to create a new legacy



TRUTH

Being transparent and accurate when addressing the people of Colorado

BHA Core Functions

Vision and Strategy

- State's BH services and programs
- Funding strategy and maximization of federal dollars to support vision and strategy

Regulation and Standard Setting

- Licensure for providers and safety net approvals
- Safety net administrative rule
- Clinical quality standards and best practice

Policy Development

- In collaboration with other agencies, Governor's Office and Legislators



BHA Core Functions (continued)

Performance and Quality Monitoring

- Across all behavioral health services
- Setting performance goals for the State

Program Oversight of BHA Funded Services

- Program design and funding for BHA funded services including SAMHSA block grants
- Contracting and management

Training and Technical Assistance for Providers

- Across providers and for all payors
- Supporting education with other partners such as community members



BHA's Major Funding Sources

Federal Funding

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
 - Mental Health Block Grant
 - Substance Use Block Grant
 - Additional grant funds

State Funding

- General funds
- Legislative appropriations





BHA's Federal Authority

BHA is designated as the official mental health authority for the administration of the Federal (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) Block Grant funds.

BHA provides supervision and administration of the state's Block Grant plans and is the official mental health authority to receive and administer:

- Grants from the Federal Government such as SAMHSA Block Grants.
- Other grants from the Federal Government for Mental health or Integrated Behavioral Health.

C.R.S. 27-50-105



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BHA Funded Services

Adult Services

- Circle Program
- Colorado's Trauma Informed System of Care (COACT)
- Jail Based Behavioral Health Services (JBBS), Medication consistency
- Co-responder model
- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion—Let Everyone Advance with Dignity (LEAD)
- Projects for Assistance in Transition for Homelessness (PATH)
- BH Care Continuum Gap Community Investment Program
- Adult comprehensive services
- Substance use treatment services and withdrawal management
- Recovery Residences
- Community Services for Guardianship
- County-Based Behavioral Health grants
- Persistent drunk driving program
- Fentanyl Education
- Gambling-Sports Betting Prevention
- Housing assistance
- Veteran Suicide Prevention Pilot

Child, Youth, and Family Services

- Mental Health and substance use disorder treatment for children, youth and their families
- Child, Youth and Family COACT
- Children and Youth and Mental Health Treatment Act (CYMHTA)
- Children, Youth, and Family Healthy Transitions
- Child, Youth, and Family High Risk Families Services
- Child, Youth and Family High Risk Pregnant Women -Special Connections
- I MATTER
- CARES ACT school-based services
- Child and youth comprehensive services
- Family First Prevention Services Act
- Residential placement for Children and Youth Pilot program
- Substance use treatment for Children, Youth and Families

All Ages

- Crisis services
- Crisis Hotline-988
- Crisis stabilization
- Coordination with HCPF on Mobile Crisis
- Momentum Transitional Specialists
- Workforce Development Program
- Behavioral Health Aid Program



Who is Eligible for BHA Funded Services?



BHA is primarily responsible for funding behavioral health services for **uninsured individuals**. In some cases, BHA funds may also be used to **support the under-insured**.



BHA services can also be used to fill gaps in the continuum for **all Coloradans regardless of insurance status**. For example, paying for crisis services that anyone can access.



Some BHA services have **additional eligibility requirements** and are designed to support specific populations who are high-risk. For example, substance use services for pregnant women or Assertive Community Treatment for individuals with serious mental illness.



BHA Regulatory Role with Providers



Set standards and quality through administrative rule for the State such as:

- Set 27-65 designations for involuntary procedures and mental health holds



License Providers such as:

- Agency licensing for the Behavioral Health Entity (BHE)
- Controlled Substance License (CSL)
- Recovery Support Services Organization (RSSO)



Safety Net Approvals for providers choosing to participate in the safety net system such as:

- Comprehensive Safety Net Provider
- Essential Safety Net Provider



Monitor Behavioral Health providers through quality standards, audits, and enforcement.





BHA Role with Providers (continued)

- **Creating a performance monitoring system for quality** and review of outcomes across the state.
- **Training and Technical Assistance (TTA)**, including TTA for best practice and evidence-based practice.
- **Problem solving and support.**
- **Development of regional programs** designed to meet needs.

Exercise #1

True or False:



BHA approves behavioral health safety net providers such as comprehensive and essential safety net providers.

True or False:



BHA holds all the funding for behavioral health services in the State.

Exercise #1 Answers



True:

BHA approves behavioral health safety net providers such as comprehensive and essential safety net providers.



False:

Behavioral health funding is shared across many state agencies. BHA supports the State in coordinating and maximizing those funds but does not hold all the funding for behavioral health services in the state.

The Role of the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF)



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HCPF's Mission

Improving health care equity, access and outcomes for the people we serve (“members”) while saving Coloradans money on health care and driving value for Colorado.



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What is the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing?

The Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) is the single state agency designated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to administer and oversee Medicaid in Colorado.

- The State's Medicaid program is known as Health First Colorado.
- The Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+).

Medicaid is a state-federal partnership program jointly funded by the federal government and administered by states within broad federal guidelines.

At the federal level, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) oversees states' Medicaid programs and works in partnership with states to administer Medicaid programs.

HCPF also administers other health care programs for Coloradans who qualify.

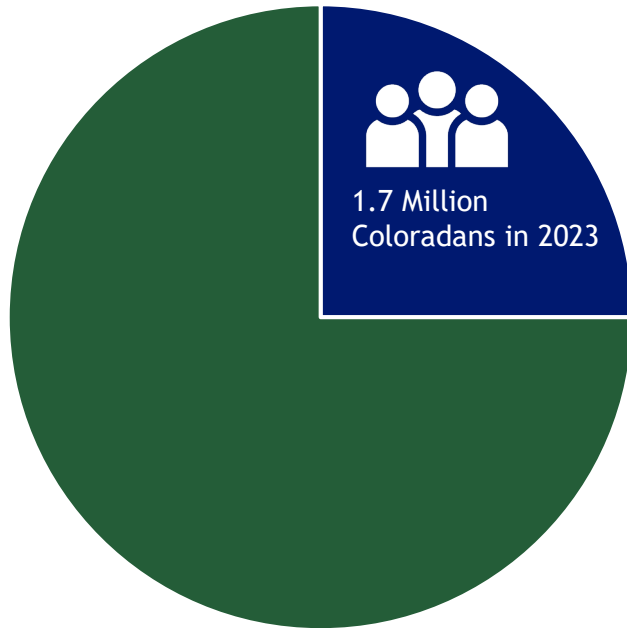
Health First Colorado



- Medicaid is **public health insurance** and the **single largest** health coverage program for medical and health-related services for low-income Americans.
- Individuals are eligible for Medicaid based on income level or other special benefits designed for specific populations.

Health First Colorado (continued)

Medicaid Coverage in Colorado



■ Medicaid ■ Non-Medicaid

- Health First Colorado covered **1.7 million** Coloradans in 2023.
- **1 in every 4** Coloradans who access critical health care services, including behavioral health care, do so through Medicaid.
- Medicaid **covers 4 in 10 children AND 1 in 6 adults** in the United States.

HCPF Core Functions

Serves as the Single State Agency for Medicaid

- Administers (or supervises the administration of) the State's Medicaid program.

Ensures compliance with all applicable federal laws, rules & requirements

- Develops a state plan that assures the federal government that Colorado will abide by federal rules and allows the State to claim federal matching funds for its activities.
- Monitors and oversees intermediaries (Regional Accountable Entities), providers and other vendors.

Determines Medicaid Program Eligibility

- Establishes procedures to ensure all eligible persons have a right to receive medically necessary health care services defined in statute.
- Informs potentially eligible individuals about Medicaid.
- Conducts fair hearings if a person wants to challenge a determination.



HCPF Core Functions (continued)

Establishes Benefits & Services

- Ensures the provision of federally required services under the Medicaid program.
- Determines which additional (optional) services will be provided under the program.

Determines Reimbursement Policies & Related Infrastructure

- Establishes reimbursement policies.
- Provides the state matching funds required as part of the cost sharing with the federal government.
- Maintains the Medicaid management information system.

Works with Intermediaries, Providers, Consumers and Others to Ensure Needs of the Community are Being Met

- Establishes the provider network and related policies.
- Partners with intermediaries on the delivery and administration of services and programs.
- Establishes quality measures and monitoring systems to improve quality and increase access to services.



Health First Colorado Benefits and Services - What's Covered?

-  Dental Services
-  Hospitalization, Emergency Services & Transportation
-  Maternity & Newborn Care
-  Pharmacy & Durable Medical Equipment
-  Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy
-  Laboratory Services
-  Preventive & Wellness Visits
-  Family Planning
-  Behavioral Health

Health First Colorado covers a wide range of **medically necessary services**

Medically Necessary is defined by HealthCare.gov as “services and supplies needed to diagnose or treat an illness, injury, condition, disease or its symptoms that meet accepted standards of medicine”

Medical Necessity as defined in the Code of Colorado Regulations

Medical necessity means a Medical Assistance program good or service:

- a. Will, or is reasonably expected to prevent, diagnose, cure, correct, reduce, or ameliorate the pain and suffering, or the physical, mental, cognitive, or developmental effects of an illness, condition, injury, or disability. This may include a course of treatment that includes mere observation or no treatment at all;
- b. Is provided in accordance with generally accepted professional standards for health care in the United States;
- c. Is clinically appropriate in terms of type, frequency, extent, site, and duration;
- d. Is not primarily for the economic benefit of the provider or primarily for the convenience of the client, caretaker, or provider;
- e. Is delivered in the most appropriate setting(s) required by the client's condition;
- f. Is not experimental or investigational; and
- g. Is not more costly than other equally effective treatment options



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Who is Eligible for Health First Colorado?

Medicaid eligibility rules vary by state.

- Every state covers some individuals and families, including children, pregnant individuals, elderly people with certain incomes, and people with disabilities.
- Some states that expanded Medicaid through the ACA, like Colorado, cover other adults based on income alone.
- Under federal law, all U.S. citizens and certain legal immigrants who meet Medicaid financial and non-financial criteria are entitled to Medicaid.

Who is Eligible for Health First Colorado? (continued)



Other requirements for Health First Colorado include:

- Must be a resident of Colorado.
- Must be a U.S. national, citizen, permanent resident, or legal alien in need of health insurance.
- Unqualified non-citizens may be eligible for Emergency Only Medicaid.



OmniSalud allows Coloradans with incomes <150% of the federal poverty line to receive subsidized coverage regardless of immigration status.



HB 22-1289, signed into law in June 2022, expands the availability of Medicaid and CHP+ coverage in 2025 to undocumented pregnant people and children who might not otherwise be eligible except for immigration status.



What is HCPF's Role in BH?

- HCPF offers a wide range of behavioral health (BH) services that are medically necessary, appropriate, and cost-effective through the Medicaid Capitated BH Benefit.
- Creates alternative payment methodologies and creates value-based payment opportunities to improve quality and build sustainability for providers.
- Sets Behavioral Health Medicaid policy and advances the continuum through Medicaid policy (e.g., Substance use Residential Benefit, Mobile Crisis Response).
- Quality Monitoring.
- Technical Assistance.

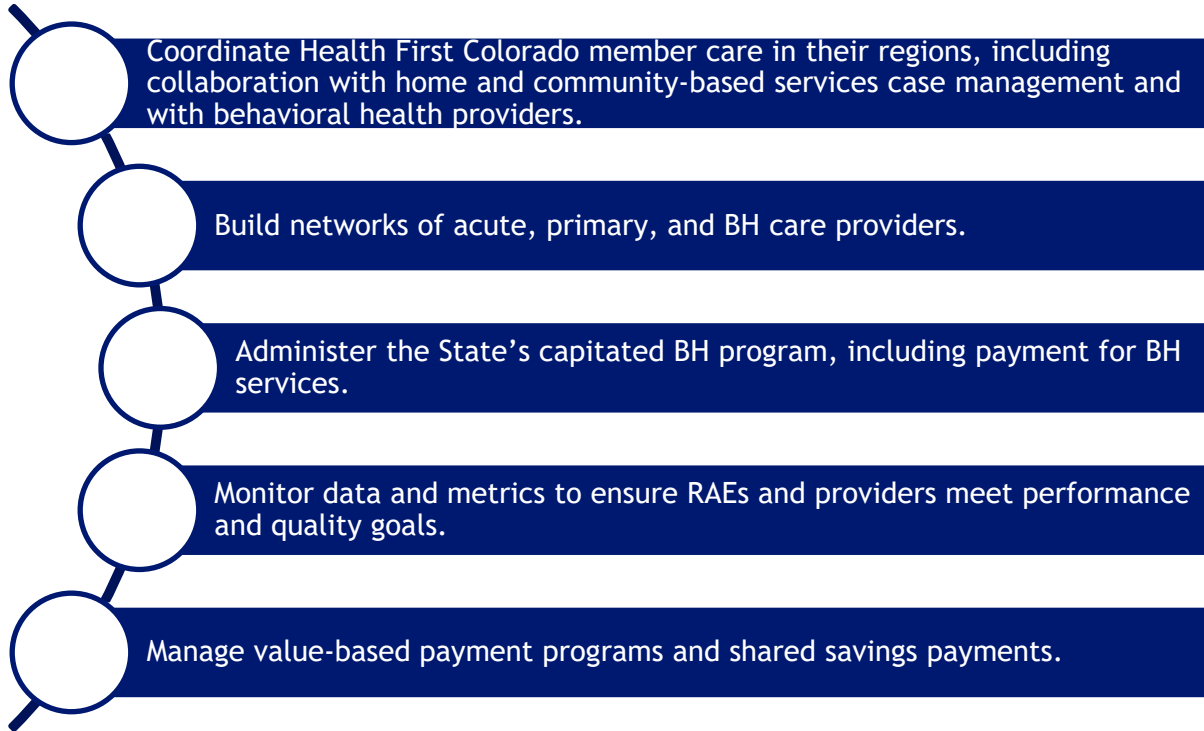


Health First Colorado Covered BH Benefits & Services

- Alcohol and/or drug assessment
- Physical assessment of detoxification progression including vital signs monitoring
- Behavioral health counseling and therapy, individual
- Alcohol and/or drug services, group counseling by a clinician
- Alcohol and/or drug services, targeted case management
- Safety assessment including suicide ideation and other behavioral issues
- Level of motivation assessment for treatment evaluation
- Drug screening and monitoring
- Medication-assisted treatment
- Inpatient Hospital
- Outpatient Psychotherapy
- Group Psychotherapy
- Family Psychotherapy
- Mental Health Assessment
- Pharmacologic Management
- Outpatient Day Treatment, non-residential
- Emergency/Crisis Services
- Clinic Services, Case Management
- Biologically-based mental illnesses and disorders
- Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder - Outpatient hospital and physician
- Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder - Inpatient hospital
- Substance Use Disorder - Residential Treatment
- Substance Use Disorder - Withdrawal Management
- School-based mental health services



How are Medicaid Benefits & Services Delivered?



HCPF administers and oversees the delivery of care through the Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC), which is implemented by Regional Accountable Entities (RAEs).

HCPF requires the RAEs to deliver key functions.



Exercise #2



True or False:

HCPF administers the State's Medicaid program.



True or False:

Colorado's Medicaid program does not include a behavioral health benefit.



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Exercise #2 Answers



True:

Federal law requires each state to designate a single state agency in the “state plan” to administer (or supervise the administration of) the state’s Medicaid program.

- Colorado designates HCPF as the single-state agency.



False:

HCPF offers a wide range of BH services that are medically necessary, appropriate, and cost-effective through the Medicaid Capitated BH Benefit.



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How do BHA and HCPF Work Together?



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How Do BHA and HCPF Work Together? (part 1)

Building an effective system through close partnership and collaboration.

- Create a shared strategy for public behavioral health policy, continuum of care design, and funding of services.
- Apply for Federal grants and Medicaid Waivers in collaboration.
- Recommend specific programs to the Legislature to fill gaps.
- Implement policy and legislative changes together.



How Do BHA and HCPF Work Together? (part 2)

Enhance quality of care for Coloradans through close partnership and collaboration.

- Develop standards and quality approach for public behavioral health safety net services.
- Design provider licensure requirements.
- Design performance monitoring and reporting requirements for safety net providers.
 - Align enforcement and consequences for non-compliance with quality.

How Do BHA and HCPF Work Together? (part 3)

Maximize federal and state funds to support effective care for Coloradans through close partnership and collaboration.



- Create payment models that leverage Federal funds.
- Inform alternative payment methodologies and value-based payments.
- Leverage shared infrastructure to support efficiency within the State.
- Jointly fund services.



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Examples of BHA and HCPF Leveraging Funding to Meet Colorado Needs

Example 1: Crisis

Health First Colorado members may also receive behavioral health services that are funded through BHA such as crisis hotline and crisis stabilization services.

AND

Example 2: Residential SUD Services

Health First Colorado funds members receiving residential treatment for a substance use disorder to obtain treatment services such as counseling.

+

BHA funds the room and board which are not covered by the Medicaid program according to Federal law.



Behavioral Health Provider Training Survey

To better inform our future trainings and request topics for office hours, please complete this short survey. Use the QR code or short URL to access it. Your feedback is important. Thank you!



<https://bit.ly/bhprovidertrainingsurvey>

Appendix A: Additional Resources

Office Hours

Last Friday of the month (March-June) @ 12pm MST, [Register Here](#)

Listserv

Join the Listserv to receive notifications of trainings, technical assistance, and other stakeholder engagement opportunities: [Register Here](#)

HCPF Safety Net Provider Website

Visit the website for details on upcoming training topics and announcements, training recordings and presentation decks, FAQs and more: <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/safetynetproviders>

TTA Request Form and E-Mail

Request TTA support or share your ideas, questions and concerns about this effort using the [TTA Request Form](#) or e-mail questions and comments to: info@safetynetproviders.com



How to Stay Engaged and Learn More

- [HCPF Behavioral Health Reform](#)
- [Behavioral Health Administration Provider Resources](#)



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