



Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council

1410 Grant Street, Suite 301-A
Denver, CO 80203
Phone: 303-832-7594
Fax: 303-830-7132
bturner@cbhc.org

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release: May 16, 2013

Contact: Brian Turner
Office: 303-832-7594, ext. 204
Fax: 303-830-7132
Email: bturner@cbhc.org

COLORADO'S KIDS EARN MAJOR INVESTMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Grant from the Colorado Health Foundation will expand and improve access to behavioral health care and strengthen partnerships between health care providers.

Denver, CO, May 16, 2013 – Over 80,000 Colorado kids suffer from a serious emotional disturbance. In addition, an estimated 273,000 struggle with a diagnosable mental health condition. Among the most significant challenges in our state, and indeed the entire country, is the disproportionately low number of child psychiatrists available to support primary care providers and offer direct treatment for behavioral health issues. Now, thanks to a generous and sage investment from the Colorado Health Foundation, a major effort is underway to address this problem and to get Colorado kids the help they need and deserve.

The Colorado Psychiatric Access and Consultation for Kids (C-PACK) project will create a statewide system of child psychiatry consultation teams helping primary care providers meet the needs of all children with psychiatric illnesses. The effort brings together a variety of collaborators to provide training and support for healthcare providers that will participate in the program, including:

- Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council – with its statewide network of Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs), Behavioral Health Organizations and substance abuse-focused Managed Service Organizations
- REACH Institute
- ValueOptions
- Colorado Access

Together, these partners will build new skills within pediatric and family practices, and then support those skills with ongoing consultation.

Colorado Children's Health Access Program (CCHAP), the Colorado Chapter of the Academy of American Pediatrics, ClinicNet, and Colorado Community Health Networks will be helping to recruit primary care practices from around the state and provide ongoing guidance to the project.

“This program will help one of my dreams come true, both as a primary care pediatrician for kids on Medicaid and in my role with the Colorado Children’s Health Access Program,” says Dr. Steve Poole, who serves as the Director of CCHAP, the Vice Chair at the University of Colorado Department of Pediatrics, and provider at Children’s Hospital Colorado. “CCHAP now works with over 850 primary care providers for children statewide, who serve over 200,000 kids on Medicaid. They all will be grateful for C-PACK.”

C-PACK’s initial focus will be on two regions covering the Denver Metro Area and a mix of urban and rural providers across southern Colorado, with the goal of expanding statewide. Reflecting the Colorado Health Foundation’s commitment to evidence-based approaches to improving health, the C-PACK project includes a rigorous research study to evaluate its process and impact on things like access to care, clinical outcomes, and healthcare costs.

“We are encouraged and excited by this opportunity to demonstrate a better way to meet the needs of Colorado kids. The commitment of C-PACK’s project partners and the Foundation’s support speak volumes to the growing consensus for an integrated approach to providing care,” says George DelGrosso, Chief Executive Officer of the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council. “Mind and body are connected; you can’t focus on just one at the expense of the other. This project shows that Colorado is moving in the right direction.”

“The C-PACK project will help bring needed behavioral health care services to children who otherwise may not have access,” said Kelly Dunkin, vice president for philanthropy at the Foundation. “We are proud of this investment and of the partners carrying out C-PACK. This project will make a difference for kids and ultimately bring Colorado closer to being the healthiest state in the nation.”



The Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council (CBHC) is the statewide membership organization for Colorado’s network of community behavioral health providers. CBHC members consist of 28 individual behavioral healthcare entities that include the 17 Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs), two specialty clinics -Asian Pacific Development Center and Servicios de la Raza, the four (4) Managed Service Organizations (MSOs), and the five (5) Behavioral Health Organizations (BHOs).

The Colorado Health Foundation works to make Colorado the healthiest state in the nation by increasing the number of Coloradans with health insurance, ensuring they have access to quality, coordinated care and encouraging healthy living. The Foundation invests in the community through grants and initiatives to health-related nonprofits that focus on these goals, as well as operating medical education programs to increase the health care workforce. For more information, please visit www.ColoradoHealth.org.

###