



Media Contact:
Palwasha (Sasha) Khan
Palwasha.Khan@coaccess.com
(720) 744-5436

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 20, 2014

Colorado Access wins Behavioral Health Organization contracts for Denver and Northeast Colorado Communities

Denver, Colo – Colorado Access, a local, nonprofit health plan, is excited to announce that it has won two contracts to serve as the Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) for both the city and county of Denver and 12 counties in northeast Colorado. In this role, Colorado Access will serve more than 275,000 Coloradans with behavioral health services and care management.

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) is required to rebid all BHO contracts every five years. Colorado Access has been the BHO for the city and county of Denver since 1998 and has won every Denver BHO bid since. Starting in July, they will provide those same services to the northeast region of Colorado, which include the following counties: Weld, Larimer, Morgan, Logan, Sedgwick, Phillips, Washington, Yuma, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Elbert and Cheyenne.

As the northeast BHO, Colorado Access will work closely with Centennial Mental Health Center, North Range Behavioral Health, and Touchstone Health Partners to increase behavioral health services access and efficacy. This partnership enables an integrated approach to extensive care management and behavioral health services for the neighboring communities.

"We are honored and thrilled to once again serve as the Behavioral Health Organization for Denver and we are looking forward to expanding our services to northeast Colorado," said Marshall Thomas, CEO and President of Colorado Access. "We are already serving the physical health needs of Medicaid recipients in northeast Colorado, so we understand their needs and see the importance of the integration of both physical and behavioral health care. We especially look forward to working with our partners at Centennial Mental Health Center, North Range Behavioral Health and Touchstone Health Partners to advance our shared mission of providing access to quality care."

With this new addition of the northeast region to their nonprofit health plan, Colorado Access will serve as the behavioral and physical health needs of more than 125,000 individuals, also allowing Medicaid recipients to get most of their services under one health plan.

"Centennial Mental Health Center is pleased to join Colorado Access in bringing behavioral health services to our northeastern Colorado communities," says Dr. Elizabeth Hickman, Executive Director. "Colorado Access and Centennial together bring a history of compassion, innovation and quality that will serve our rural and frontier counties well, and provide a springboard for new collaboration among healthcare providers in our communities."

"North Range Behavioral Health is excited to work with Colorado Access," says Executive Director Larry Pottorff, "as we enter a new era of collaboration in eastern Colorado. We are looking forward to a long-term partnership that will enhance efforts to integrate behavioral and physical healthcare with the common goal of improving the health of our members."

"Touchstone Health Partners looks forward to a strong and productive partnership with Colorado Access," said Randy Ratliff, CEO of Touchstone Health Partners. "Best of all - both Colorado Access and Touchstone share a commitment to ensure that the individuals and families we serve will receive seamless care from the providers they trust. Together, we will continue our decades-long legacy of improving behavioral health for the people of northeast Colorado."

About Colorado Access:

Founded in 1994, Colorado Access is a local, nonprofit health plan that serves more than 600,000 members. The company's members receive healthcare under Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+), Medicaid behavioral and physical health programs, long-term support, and/or Medicare Advantage. Colorado Access provides care coordination and management for three (3) of the seven (7) Regional Care Collaborative Organizations (RCCOs) under Colorado's Accountable Care Collaborative Medicaid program. To learn more about Colorado Access, visit coaccess.com.

About North Range Behavioral Health:

As part of the community for over 45 years, North Range Behavioral Health is a private, non-profit corporation dedicated to providing comprehensive, professional, and multicultural behavioral health services. We serve more than 12,000 clients each year at over 20 locations throughout Weld County, with integrated, outpatient, acute, and community-based services. We also provide critical prevention and education programming to schools, employers, and community organizations. For more information, visit northrange.org or call (970) 347-2120.

About Centennial Mental Health Center:

Centennial Mental Health Center, with administrative offices in Sterling, is an equal opportunity provider and employer that provides behavioral health services to individuals across the lifespan in Cheyenne, Elbert, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington and Yuma Counties. Services include a variety of behavioral health service programs: outpatient therapy, community support programs, crisis intervention, emergency response, substance use disorder treatment, and child, adult and family counseling. Services are offered at Centennial offices in each county, as well as other community locations such as private homes, schools, jails, nursing homes and hospitals. For more information, visit centennialmhc.org.

About Touchstone Health Partners:

Founded in 1957, Touchstone Health Partners is a private non-profit whose mission is to provide unsurpassed behavioral health prevention, intervention, and treatment services in Larimer County. Each year, Touchstone Health Partners serve approximately 6,700 individuals afflicted by mental health and substance use disorders, 34% of which are children, youth and young adults. With 20 locations throughout northern Colorado, services are available to both individuals and families who are without other options for behavioral health care. For more information, visit touchstonehealthpartners.org.

