



# House Public and Behavioral Health and Human Services Committee

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An Introduction to the Behavioral Health Administration

January 25, 2023



**COLORADO**  
Behavioral Health  
Administration

# The Behavioral Health Task Force: Pathway to Reform

*Called into being on April 8, 2019 by Governor Polis with the purpose of creating a roadmap to improve Colorado's behavioral health system.*

## Three Big Reforms:

- Create the Behavioral Health Administration
- Implement Care Coordination
- Top 19 Recommendations within 6 pillars



# Six Pillars and 19 Priorities

## ACCESS

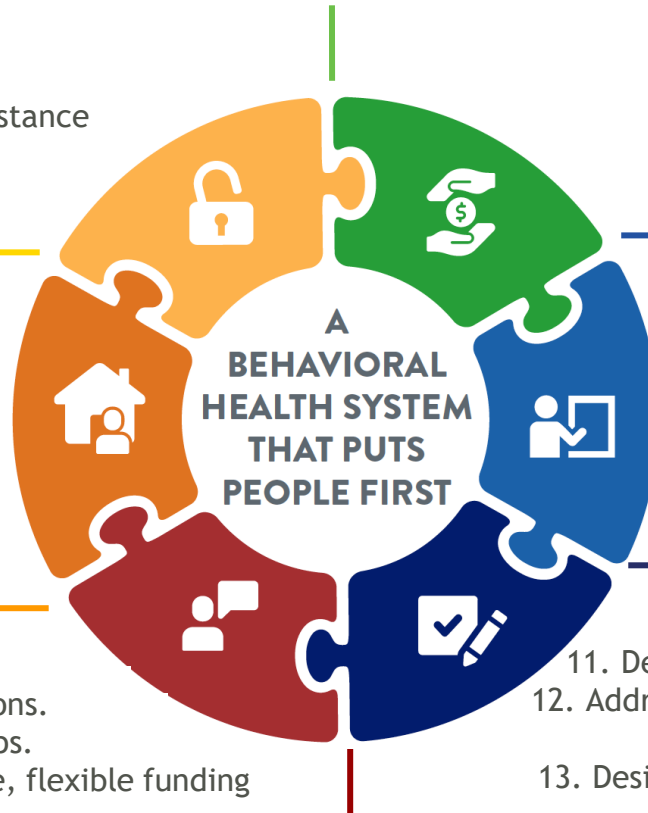
1. No wrong door
2. Expand crisis services
3. Integrate mental health and substance use disorder services.
4. Build a complete continuum of behavioral health services.

## WHOLE PERSON CARE

17. Offer care coordination services.
18. Expand high-intensity case management.
19. Create planned and facilitated education partners.

## LOCAL & CONSUMER GUIDANCE

14. Identify service gaps and solutions.
15. Form and engage advisory groups.
16. Identify and provide sustainable, flexible funding streams.



## AFFORDABILITY

5. Ensure adequate rates of payments and reimbursement.
6. Streamline funding streams.
7. Prioritize the community funding.

## WORKFORCE & SUPPORT

8. Expand the capacity for a culturally competent workforce.
9. Fund use of non-traditional workforce, especially peers.
10. Reduce the administrative burden.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

11. Develop population-specific standards of care.
12. Address high suicide incidences and disparities in marginalized populations.
13. Designate a single fiscal management system for all publicly funded services.





# A People First Approach



Creating the Colorado Behavioral Health Administration



## What is the BHA?

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The Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) is a new cabinet member-led agency designed to be the single entity responsible for driving coordination and collaboration across state agencies to address behavioral health needs.



## Our 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 One-Year Priorities



## ENGAGEMENT

- Commissioner Statewide Tour ✓
- Lived Expertise Council ✓
- Cabinet Council ✓
- BHASO Stakeholder Engagement ✓
- Joint Information Center ✓



## STRATEGIC VISION/PLANNING

- County Assessment Tool Launched ✓
- Formal Agreements (on-going)
- Release of BHA's Behavioral Health Plan ✓



## NEW RULES/STANDARDS

- Continuum Rule Rewrite (on-going)
- Design Care Coordination Standards (on-going)



## CELEBRATE 1 YEAR

JULY 2023



## BHA LAUNCHES

JULY 2022



## WORKFORCE STRATEGY

- Release of Statewide Strategy ✓
- Learning Academy in Progress ✓



## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

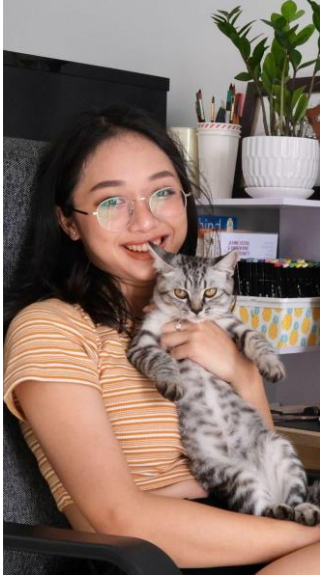
- Release of Community Investment Grants ✓
- Release of Children, Youth, and Families Grants ✓
- Release of Criminal Justice Early Intervention Grants ✓
- Release of Substance Use Workforce Stability ✓



## ACCESS TO CARE

- Launch of OwnPath ✓
- Launch of 988 Crisis Line ✓
- Launch of Provider Services Platform ✓
- Access to Care Methodology ✓





# Nothing for us without us

Innovation on its own does not serve us; good innovation is rooted in our people's needs and our systems processes.

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Listen to the people of Colorado first.  
Establish processes that support people.  
Thoughtfully systematize the ways our people engage in our state processes.



# Authentic Partnership

- Acting responsibly and in the best interests of all people in Colorado
- Acknowledging when harm has been done and taking purposeful action towards meaningful remedies
- Upholding our shared ideals and values to function as a conduit of change, not a source of conflict
- Disclosing all relevant data and metrics, holding ourselves accountable to agreed-upon measurements of success and effectiveness
- Embracing openness to create efficiencies and expand possibilities

# The BHAAC:

The Behavioral Health Administration Advisory Council will co-create and inform the BHA's vision and strategic plan, and ensure there is public accountability and transparency.

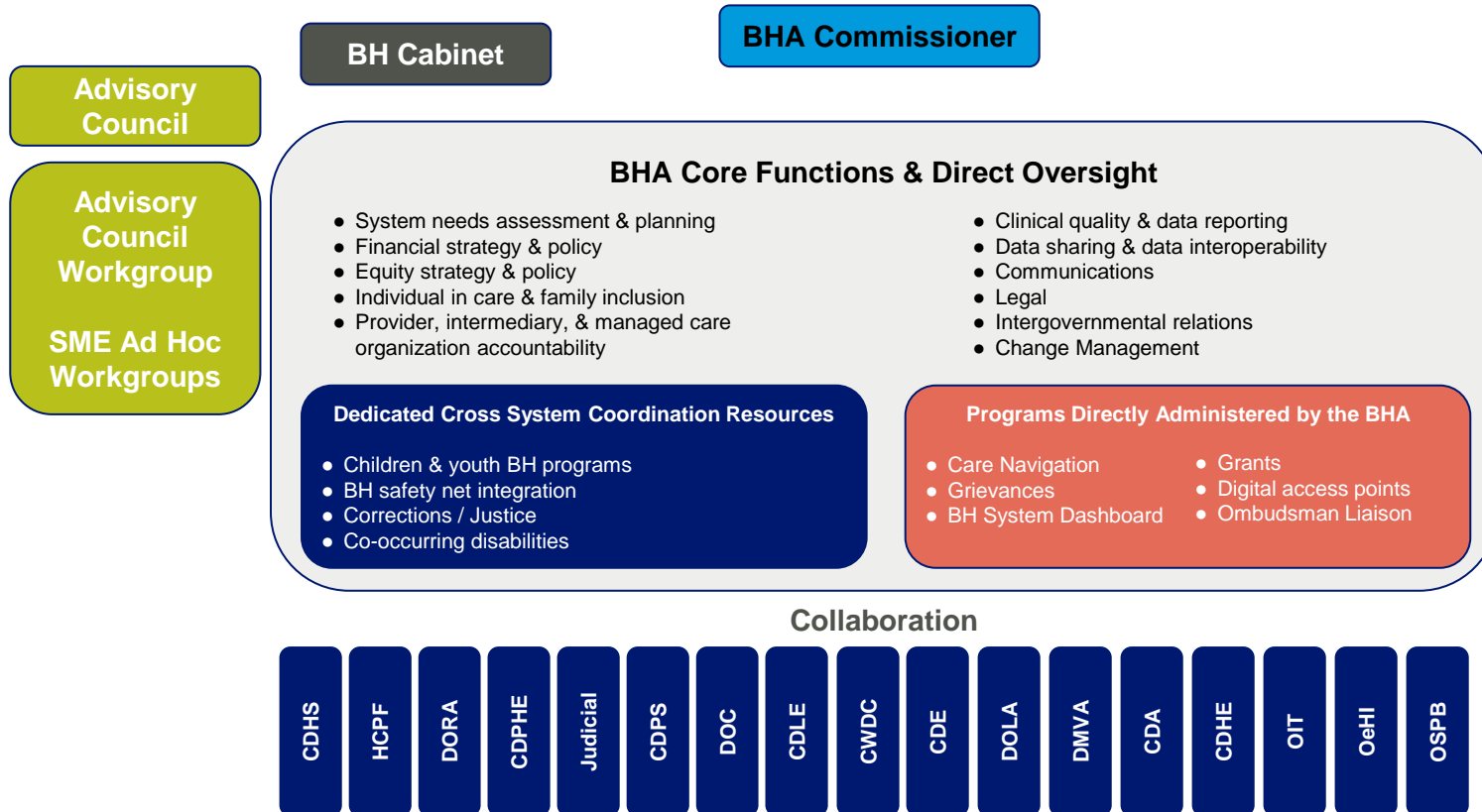




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# The BHA: A Networked Government Approach to Reform

# The BHA Model



# Collaboration Across State Government



Formal Agreements

13

State Departments,  
Judicial Branch,  
BH Ombudsman



BH JIC

17

BH JIC members across  
10 departments meeting  
weekly



Crisis Convenings

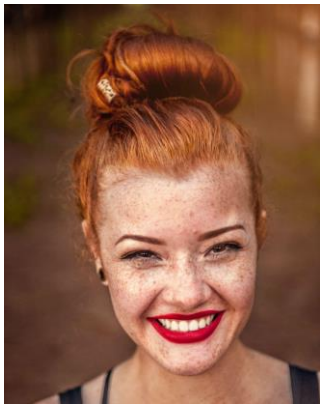
19

meetings with HCPF to  
support a new mobile crisis  
benefit



# Leading through the Interagency Council

HB 22-1278 created the Behavioral Health Administration and charged the BHA with creating a coordinated, cohesive and effective behavioral health system in Colorado. C.R.S. 27-50-102(2), establishes that the BHA Commissioner shall chair a regular meeting of executive directors of state agencies to ensure regular engagement and align state programs, resource allocation, priorities and strategic planning.



# Creating Generational Impact



# A Behavioral Health System that Works for Coloradans

## PEOPLE LEFT BEHIND

- People struggle to access care and find providers
- Many with complex needs fall through the cracks
- Unclear where to submit grievances or complaints



## PEOPLE PUT FIRST

- Support for people to find and enroll in treatment and social services
- A stronger safety net that catches people before they experience crisis
- A shared complaint process for all payers, including private insurance



## FRAGMENTED VISION AND STRATEGY

- Fragmented programs (120) across 13 agencies and the Judicial Branch
- Each agency has a separate vision/strategy
- Inconsistent communication between programs



## UNIFIED VISION AND STRATEGY

- Shared vision and strategy creating a guiding vision for how to improve behavioral health for all populations, building on strengths and opportunities between programs and across agencies
- Use collective impact model to align activities across separate entities to reach a shared vision



## FUNDING ISSUES

- Lack of coordinated efforts
- Non-strategic funding allocation and fragmented funding lacking a statewide, cross-agency vision/strategy
- Underutilized federal match opportunities



## IMPROVED FUNDING

- Leadership for resource allocation across agencies
- Shared approach to funding
- Maximize federal match funds
- Transparent spending and reporting



## FRAGMENTED DATA

- Data is not trackable
- Data is inconsistent between programs
- Closed ecosystem designed to meet administrative functions



## COMPREHENSIVE DATA

- Accessible and trackable data
- Statewide and comprehensive view
- Improved planning, strategy, gap filling, and accountability
- Defined data metrics to inform accurate collecting/reporting
- Consumer-first approach to data collection and sharing



## NO SYSTEM COORDINATION

- Gaps in care and program responsibilities
- Fragmentation with multiple systems of care
- Duplicative and convoluted standards interfere with care and limit effective accountability of providers



## SYSTEM COORDINATION

- Centralized standards and accountability for addressing gaps in the system and for supporting individuals in transitions from program to program
- Leverage solutions and build relationships between programs
- Support system to treat co-occurring needs
- Improved provider training and increased capacity for serving individuals with whole person approaches
- Streamlined processes for credentialing, contracting, and quality measurement to reduce provider burden and build efficiency



BEFORE BHA

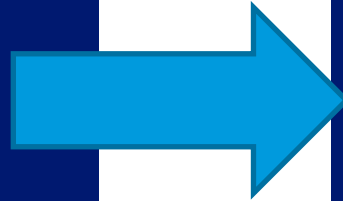
AFTER BHA

STAY INFORMED & INVOLVED



# Impact at the system level

- Lack of a **shared vision** for behavioral health with multiple separate and disconnected strategies
- **Fragmented and uncoordinated funding strategies and priorities**
- **Duplication of processes:**
  - Provider networks
  - Standards
  - Payment models
  - Licensure/Designation
  - Regulatory requirements and administrative expectations
  - Data measures/reporting
- **Disparate accountability**
- **Lack of transparency**



- A **shared vision** for behavioral health with a clear and coordinated strategy cross payer and cross-sector
- **Planned, strategic funding for a future state of behavioral health with maximized federal dollars**
- **Streamlined processes:**
  - Provider networks
  - Standards
  - Payment models
  - Licensure/Designation
  - Regulatory requirements and administrative expectations
  - Data measures/reporting
- **Clear accountability**
- **Public transparency**

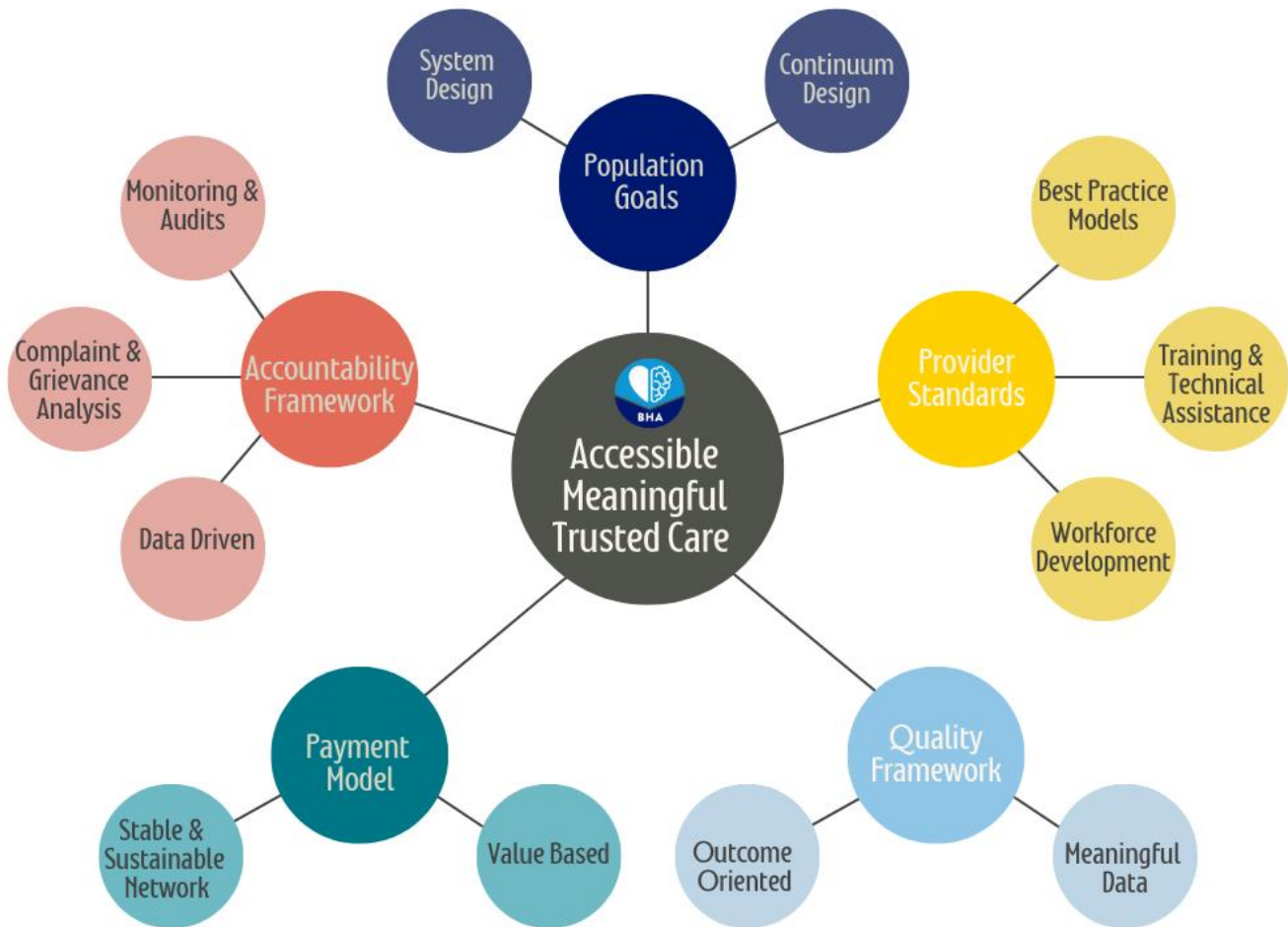


# Impact at the individual level

**We believe in and advocate for all people in Colorado having:**

- Comprehensive, effective, and equitable care across their lifespan
- Preventive and responsive supports - whether they are the recipient of care or a caregiver - that are reflective of their needs as they evolve over time
- Clear guidance on how to access care when, where, and how they need it
- Trauma-informed and culturally and linguistically responsive care
- Affordable access to high-quality behavioral health services outside of emergent care or the criminal justice system
- Interactions with a behavioral health workforce dedicated to the transformation of mental health service delivery practiced with cultural humility





# Stay Connected with the BHA

