



FEDC WellSTART is a Fremont Economic Development Corporation program

FEDC WellSTART Mission Statement: To promote wellness services in the region through job creation, career pathway development, and recruitment and retention of professionals, while expanding access to these programs.

Fremont County versus Colorado Statistics:

- Higher unemployment 6.4% versus 3.5%¹
- Low overall health outcome ranking:²
 - Fremont ranked 39th lowest
 - Pueblo ranked 53rd lowest

In an effort to build local behavioral health professional resources in this rural area, FEDC WellSTART conducted the following activities with local behavioral health agencies and private providers:

- Survey on workforce development needs
- Brainstorming meeting to develop potential workforce development strategies

Top priority was building a local psychiatric technician program:

- Canon City High School and the Pueblo Community College are meeting to develop a program that will start while participants are in high school
- This would be the first step in building a comprehensive career ladder for nurses and behavioral health professionals.

Why start with Psychiatric Technicians?

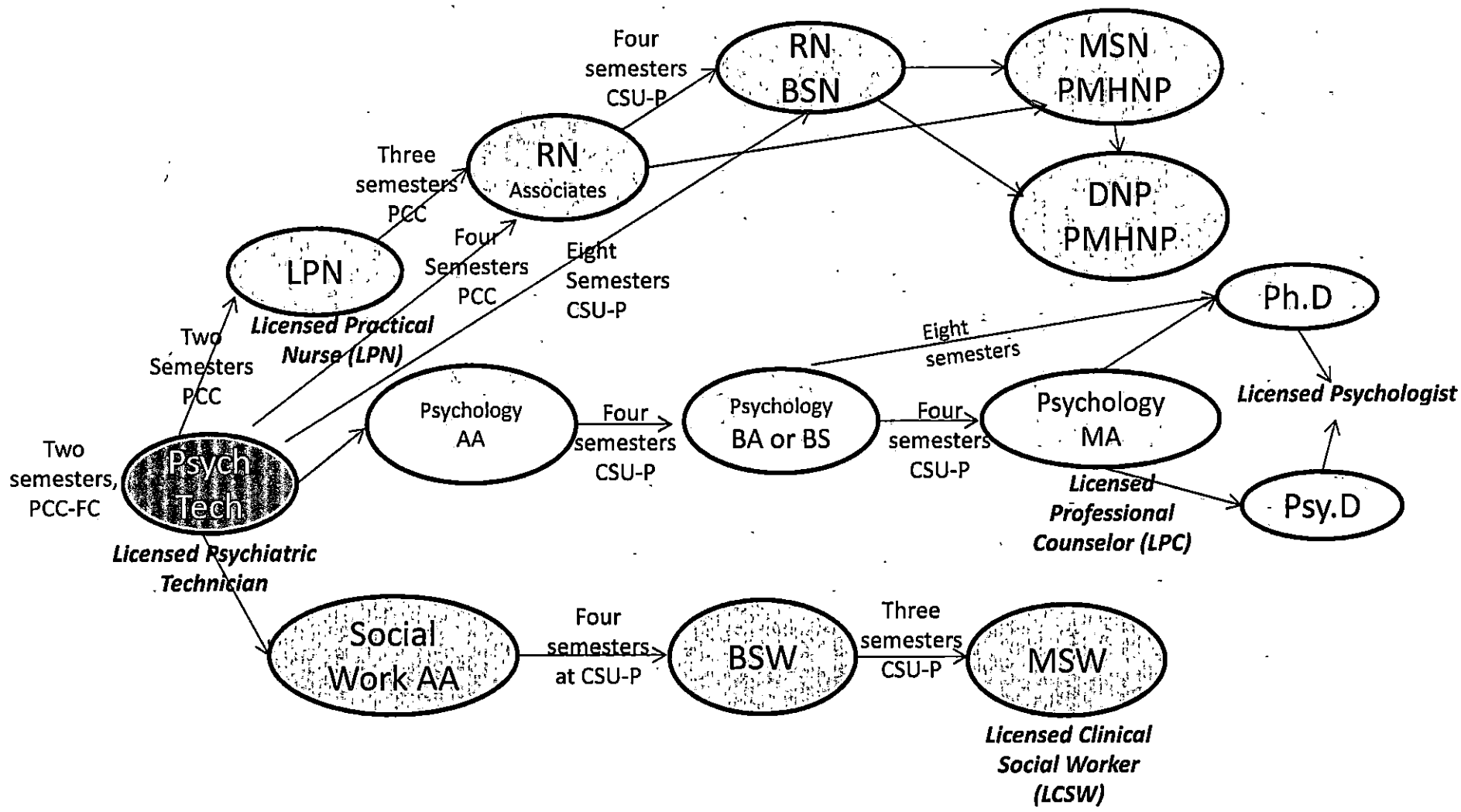
- Becoming a licensed psych tech is cost and time effective for individuals with limited post-secondary education financial resources
- Many behavioral health and health agencies can use psychiatric technicians
- Psych Techs can:
 - Dispense medication
 - Deescalate individuals experiencing mental health crisis
 - Assist with security needs
 - Assist with therapy plans

FEDC WellSTART supports continued Colorado Psychiatric Technician licensure

¹ December 2018 statistics found at <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/COPREM5URN>

² Robert Wood Johnson County 2018 Health Rankings.

<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/colorado/2018/rankings/outcomes/overall>



Health Profession Career Ladder