



## Axis Health System testimony on HB 24-1384

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To the members of the House Health & Human Services Committee:

On behalf of Axis Health System, I respectfully request your support for HB 24-1384 regarding Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics.

Axis is a tax-exempt community health care provider currently serving 11 counties in Southwest Colorado. As both a Federally Qualified Health Center and a Community Mental Health Center, Axis is creating access to integrated primary care, behavioral health and dental health services in rural and frontier communities.

In 2023, we applied for a facility specific CCBHC grant through the SAMSHA; it was awarded to last fall. We are using these funds to improve access to behavioral health services – with a particular focus on outreach and services to Latinx people, the LGBTQI+ community, veterans, and adults with serious mental illness and substance use disorder. This CCBHC pilot grant provides start-up funding to hire new staff, which will help us increase timely access to care. As part of this grant, we will be building the data and reporting to track standardized outcomes using the same nationally vetted metrics that CCBHCs across the country use, allowing us to measure ourselves against national benchmarks, identify areas for improvement and have access to the tools to enable that improvement.

The way Axis is responding to improve and increase access with the federal CCBHC model perfectly supports the goals of Colorado's behavioral health reform: we are providing community-responsive care, improving access, and focusing on quality within a system that will provide national data comparability.

As a new CCBHC grantee, we are building the infrastructure to meet the federal standards and requirements. Axis is proud to join seven other existing CCBHCs in Colorado. If Colorado secures a statewide CCBHC grant, the CCBHC impact can and will be magnified. We can then take the step to implement robust CCBHC model statewide with fidelity to the national standards, expanding resources and access while creating a path for this evidence-based model to be more widely available here and more sustainably resourced.

At a time when states are struggling to increase access and funding to improve the behavioral health system (and Colorado is not alone in this struggle), Colorado's pursuit of the federal CCBHC grant(s) appears to be an essential component of successfully achieving the vision laid out in Colorado's *Blueprint for Behavioral Health Reform*. CCBHC is an increasingly adopted approach across the nation as an anchor for behavioral health delivery expansion and reform.

I ask your support of HB 1384.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shelly Burke".

April 12, 2024

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House Health & Human Services

04/16/2024 Upon Adjournment

HB24-1384 Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Jeany Rush</p> <p>Against themselves</p>	<p>TO: HOUSE HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE</p> <p>RE: HB24-1884 CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINICS 4-15-24 FOR 4-16-24</p> <p>FROM: JEANY RUSH COLORADO SPRINGS CONCERNED CONSTITUENT</p> <p>VOTE: NO NO</p> <p>Having reviewed your bill, and its agenda I have concerns about this whole concept, and the purpose.</p> <p>Federal programs, or programs taking funds from federal grants, etc. will have federal guidelines for requirements, and how the programs are run. After watching the ketamine uses, abuses, and misuses, I have no faith in any federally supported programs. Between the horrible SEL guidelines taught all over this state, causing more confusion, and actual physical mutilation on our youth, and others, it is impossible to trust more behavioral health clinics being put into our communities. The national precepts being used even by the APA, ASCA is totally out of line with real mental health. It is more about destroying our societies, our communities, our families, and our children. The harm being done by these communities is criminal. Further, Watching how our health system, literally destroyed millions of lives, with its total disregard for the truth about the Covid lies, the horrible ingredients in these pseudo shots, the abuse of our lives both mentally and physically, I do not trust anything being done at this point to implicate our communities with more facilities run without using true science. Take this to the step that should be happening, which is to stop the flow of fentanyl and other drugs on the streets, we would do better to remove the criminals, and drugs on the streets, before attempting to create more facilities, which will not really stop the true cause of problems for people in this State. Hard NO here.</p>
<p>Claudia Burgstahler</p> <p>For NAMI</p>	<p>I highly recommend the passing of this bill to support the needs for those who need this desperately.</p> <p>Thank you very much for caring and all of your hard work for all citizens!</p>

	Claudia Burgstahler
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## **HB 24-1384 - SummitStone Health Partners testimony**

This written testimony is submitted by Lesley Brooks, MD, Chief Medical Officer, and Cyndi Dodds, LMFT, Chief Clinical Officer, at SummitStone Health Partners, the community mental health center serving Larimer County.

SummitStone is the proud recipient of a SAMHSA CCBHC implementation grant beginning in 2022. With CCBHC funding,

- SummitStone has expanded their Integrated Care (mental health, substance use disorder and physical health) and Crisis Transitions Team composed of community-based staff serving high-acuity clients in forensics services, intensive case management, and at the Murphy Center for Hope, which serves unhoused people. This program supports the transition of clients from crisis to ongoing care as well as expansion of targeted case management, peer supports, and staff focused on advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion across the organization so all feel welcome and receive culturally relevant services.
- SummitStone has established system-wide Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) activities. We hired a Director of Quality and established a CQI Committee to facilitate equitable delivery of services and to identify and decrease behavioral health disparities.

The foundation to achieving our goals is ensuring the organization has complete, accurate, valid, and reliable demographic data. The CQI Committee undertook an analysis of

demographic data from our old electronic health record system (Avatar) to understand the completeness of our data as we transitioned to a new electronic health record (Epic).

Demographic data from Avatar were analyzed for completeness. Intake demographic data from unique clients with a valid service between 1/1/2023 to 11/30/2023 were analyzed. On average, data are 76% complete with a range of completeness between 100% and 36%. Based on this, the Committee established a goal of achieving 70% completeness for each of our primary demographic categories. Critical to this work was assessing the forms and methods of data collection and developing scripting to help train our staff in explaining the importance of this information to clients. Additionally, Epic has allowed for expanded demographic data collection categories to include more detailed options to capture more accurate information about our client demographics.

CCBHCs offer a “Gold Standard” framework for high quality, equitable, integrated, whole person behavioral health care. We’d like to thank the sponsors and ask the committee to support this bill.