

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

*Improving outcomes
in our community*



A publication of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County collaborative



In this issue

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A new look and new communication tools and resources to help explain the collaborative work underway through the Behavioral Health Initiative (BHI).

2

A look at milestones over time, from prior to the formation of the BHI through the resolution for a joint city/county effort to leverage resources and oversee work identified in priority areas.

3-4

New approved projects; Request for Proposals (RFPs), both awarded and in process; subcommittee updates; and more about the work underway to improve behavioral health outcomes in our community.

Filling in the pieces of the puzzle to form a comprehensive safety net of mental health services

Images are often used to help explain complicated topics. For instance, the graphs, pie chart and table included in the 4-page Behavioral Health Initiative (BHI) brief helped clarify questions on decision-making, funding and the projects that are “filling the gaps” in our behavioral health system. Recently introduced are the puzzle images shown on this page. The “pieces of the puzzle” illustrate the identified priority areas needed to complete today’s fragmented behavioral health system, including: crisis services; supportive housing; community supports; and prevention, intervention and harm reduction.

Since the last BHI update, it’s clear that timely communications in many forms are needed to facilitate further understanding about the collaborative work underway to complete the puzzle. To support this approach, BHI introduces the following new communication resources:

- This new quarterly newsletter, with messaging inclusive of all behavioral health system improvements in our community;
- A dedicated web page through partnership with *Share New Mexico*, www.sharenm.org/BHInitiative
- Access to presentations, upcoming community events, etc. to further increase understanding through dialogue; and
- A way to connect with BHI via email: BHInitiative@bernco.gov

Your feedback is welcome. Email us and let us know if there is information you have or want us to share about filling the gaps in our behavioral health system.

Behavioral Health Initiative

TIMELINE

Following is a snapshot of BHI activities achieved thus far through collaboration and community input.

Notable activities prior to the beginning of BHI include:

- **March 2012:** Opioid Accountability Initiative formed in response to high overdose death rates
- **July 2013:** First city-sponsored *Creating Community Solutions (CCS) Dialogue* held
- **September 2013:** Opioid Summit held

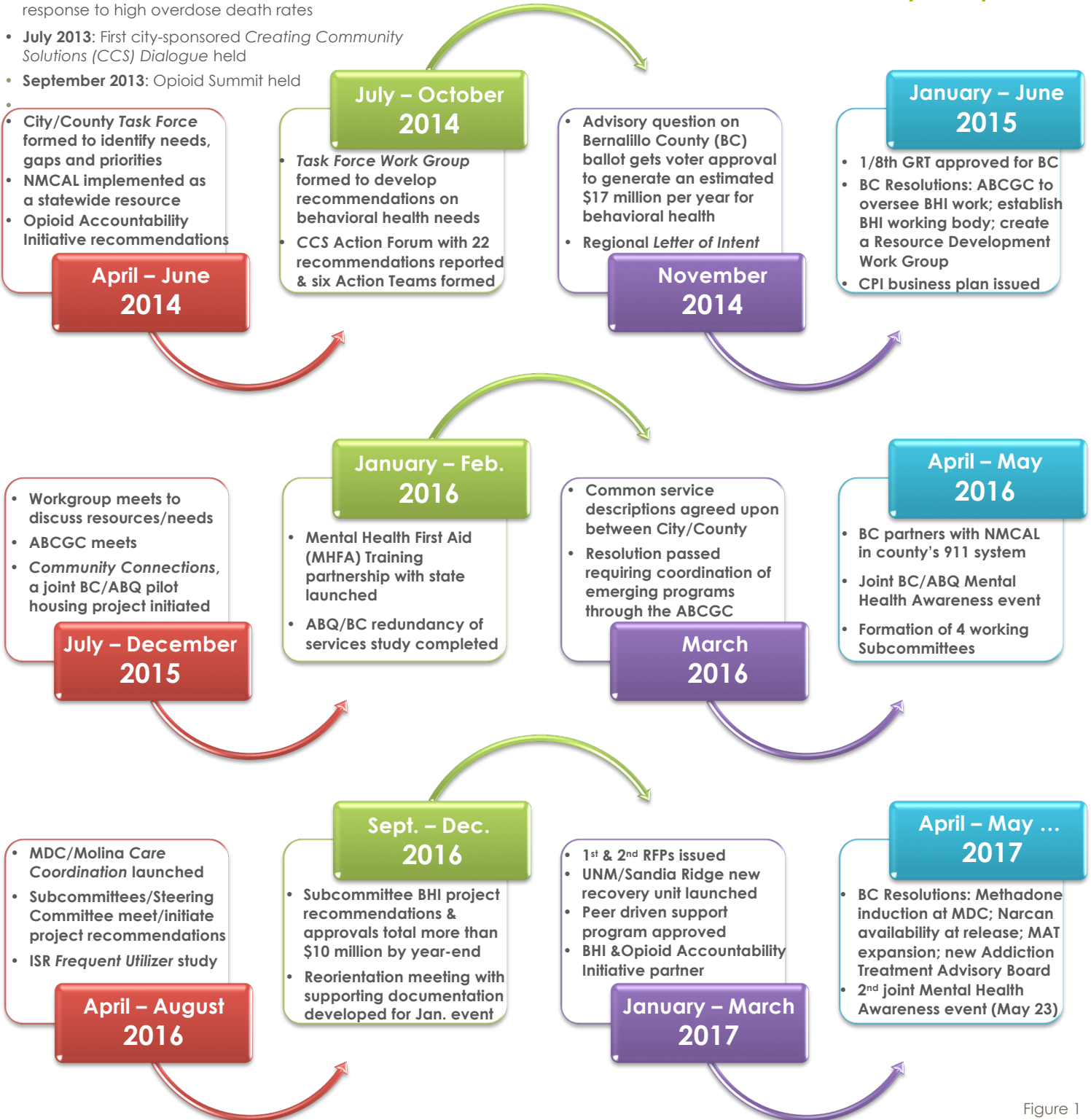


Figure 1

APPROVED PROJECTS BY COMMITTEE	FUNDING ALLOCATIONS	STATUS
SUPPORTIVE HOUSING		
<i>Community Connections Jail Re-entry Diversion</i>	\$1.3 million – BC \$500,000 – CABQ	Fully implemented
Youth Transitional Living	\$650,000 – BC	RFP evaluation scheduled for May 22 – June 9, 2017
<i>Community Connections Scattered Supportive Housing</i>	\$1.2 million – BC	Accepting applications by May 15, 2017
PREVENTION/HARM REDUCTION		
Reduction of Adverse Childhood Experiences	\$3 million – BC	Contract negotiations underway
Community Engagement Teams	\$1 million – BC	RFP in development for release June 1, 2017
COMMUNITY SUPPORTS		
Peer Driven Support Services	\$300,000 – BC	RFP in development
CRISIS SERVICES		
Mobile Crisis Teams	\$1 million – BC \$456,291 – CABQ	MOU/joint RFP in development for release May 14, 2017
Transition Planning and Re-entry Resource Center	\$1,341,188 – BC	Program/building specs in development
STEERING COMMITTEE		
UNM ISR Contract	\$246,553 – BC	Fully implemented
Behavioral Health Advisor Contract	\$140,000 – BC	To begin July 1, 2017

Figure 2

Subcommittee Updates

Figure 2 includes status on each project approved thus far, including funds spent to date. Note that all monies allocated but not yet spent are accrued for spends in future annual budgets.

To date, the city and county approved \$11,134,107 for BHI projects from subcommittee recommendations.

The following subcommittee projects are currently in review: *Single Site Supportive Housing; Mental Health Awareness Education and Training; and Crisis Respite and Stabilization Services.*

Peer Driven Drop-in Support Services Project Approved

Peer driven support services, a recommendation by the Community Supports Subcommittee, has been approved by the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Government Commission (ABCGC) and Bernalillo County Commission with funding up to \$300,000 per year.

The peer support driven drop-in centers will be a resource for individuals with behavioral health issues. The intent of the program is to provide a place where the fellow participants support one another and receive services in order to assist each other in maintaining their current level of care in the community. The participants will be encouraged to assist each other in achieving community re-integration, wellness and meaningful social connections.

The peer support can be delivered in a multitude of ways, including in-person at a center, by phone or over the internet. Drop-in centers could be located in community centers, libraries, schools, and churches or a free-standing building dedicated to this use.

“Peer support services fills a much needed service gap in our current behavioral health care system and will benefit the individual participant, peer supporter, health care provider community, natural support respite and surrounding community.”

Katrina Hotrum
Bernalillo County Director
Behavioral Health

BHI Community Updates

News beyond GRT resources

BHI is leveraging resources through collaboration to fill the gaps in our behavioral health system continuum.

UNM and Genesis HealthCare's Sandia Ridge Center launch new mental health and recovery unit

Modified reprint from UNM press release

Sandia Ridge Center, a 136-bed skilled nursing center operated by Genesis HealthCare, is opening a new Mental Health and Recovery unit in an important clinical collaboration with the University of New Mexico Health System.

Over the past year, Genesis and UNM have developed a variety of new clinical programs across New Mexico aimed at improving patient care and making the transition from the hospital to a post-acute care facility more efficient.

The new 26-bed Mental Health and Recovery Unit at Sandia Ridge offers patients with mental health conditions a robust, recovery-based program of services provided by a highly trained, knowledgeable team working together with UNM mental health specialists.

"We are thrilled to collaborate with UNM specialists to bring the first Mental Health and Recovery Unit to New Mexico," said Dave Almqvist, Genesis executive vice president and president of the company's West Division.

"This specialized program addresses an unmet need in the Albuquerque community," he added. "Patients with mental health conditions often are discharged unsuccessfully from the hospital or other care setting to the community and require re-hospitalization. Our Mental Health and Recovery program is focused on helping our patients manage their disease and live in a physically and emotionally healthy manner."

Paul B. Roth, MD, MS, Chancellor for Health Sciences and CEO of the UNM Health System, said "This is a great opportunity to leverage the expertise of our physicians and providers with a national leader in skilled nursing to create a new level of care in our community."

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Various events and media activities are scheduled throughout May to commemorate National Mental Health Awareness Month, including a special BHI event scheduled May 23, 10 am – 2 pm, on Civic Plaza. Visit the new BHI website for a complete list of community events.

BHI partners with Opioid Accountability Initiative

BHI is partnering with the Opioid Accountability Initiative to promote recommendations and goals to expand Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and harm reduction efforts via enhanced availability of Naloxone – two goals that align with Bernalillo County's efforts to reduce opioid related death and are determined to be financially sustainable through grants or Medicaid.

Another action related to the opioid initiative is Bernalillo County Commission's recent resolution to create an advisory body to provide guidance on best practices regarding MATs and harm reduction efforts.

