

# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

*Improving outcomes  
in our community*



A publication of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County collaborative



## With Help from the Community, the Puzzle Pieces are Coming Together

This year marks two years since the four Behavioral Health Initiative (BHI) subcommittees were formed. The *Crisis Services*, *Supportive Housing*, *Community Supports*, and *Prevention, Intervention and Harm Reduction* Subcommittees represent priority service needs and voting members who represent the community; technical advisors who are free of conflict of interest; and staff who help inform and guide the process of reviewing, vetting and developing project proposal recommendations for consideration by the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Government Commission (ABCGC). Approved ABCGC projects are then presented for approvals through the entity designated to fund the project — with some funded by BernCo through the behavioral health gross receipts tax; by CABQ, where in some cases funding has been realigned to support the BHI; and as a joint venture between the city and the county, as in the case of the Mobile Crisis Teams project.

Since 2016, the work of the subcommittees has resulted in 13 approved projects, seven of which are in implementation phase. The remaining six are currently undergoing an open procurement process where requests for proposals (RFPs) have been issued and responses are being reviewed for consideration of a contract award. When you consider the many steps towards project implementation — reviewing concepts, researching best practices, writing recommendations, gaining approvals, issuing/reviewing RFPs, developing performance measures, and awarding contracts — 13 projects to date towards filling much needed service gaps is huge.

We appreciate any help you can do to share these updates. If you are interested in joining a BHI speaker's forum or know of an event where we can share the BHI story, let us know via email at [BHInitiative@bernco.gov](mailto:BHInitiative@bernco.gov).

## In this issue

2

Read about the 13 projects detailed in this issue that have been vetted by the BHI subcommittees and approved for funding thus far.

3

More on project summary descriptions, including a snapshot overview of approved project status and projects that are in review or are being planned for analysis.

4

Learn about the national recognition the BHI is receiving, in addition to how Bernalillo County and its community partners are leveraging resources to improve behavioral health outcomes in our community.

# BHI Approved Projects To Date

Together, CABQ and BernCo have approved more than \$14 million in annual allocations for Behavioral Health Initiative projects that have been vetted and recommended through the four BHI subcommittees. Following are brief descriptions of each of the 13 projects approved since the subcommittees formed.

## **Community Connections Re-entry Supportive Housing – \$1.3 Million per year BernCo/\$500,000 CABQ**

Provides intensive case management and services linked with scattered site housing to a target population of homeless or precariously housed persons with mental illness or co-occurring disorders or other disabilities and whose lack of community based services have resulted in criminal justice system involvement. The program provides high quality intensive wrap-around services and housing subsidies to support the individual's successful reintegration and long-term stability in the community after incarceration.

**Subcommittee:** Supportive Housing  
**Status:** Implemented October 2016

---

## **Community Connections Supportive Housing Expansion for Frequent Utilizers – \$1.2 million per year**

The program expansion focuses on individuals with behavioral health issues who are homeless or precariously housed and are frequent utilizers of emergency room and other services. The expansion provides for 55 scattered housing vouchers with case management services.

**Subcommittee:** Supportive Housing  
**Status:** Implemented May 2017

---

## **Reduction of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) – \$3 million per year**

Through program coordination and enhancement of services, Bernalillo County is developing a system that maintains a strong collaboration of professionals who work with identified at risk children and their families across the full continuum of services including primary prevention, identification, early intervention, support and treatment, harm reduction, outreach, and services in children's homes and within the community. The funding pays for services and family supports not currently reimbursed by Medicaid or third party payers.

**Subcommittee:** Prevention, Intervention, Harm Reduction  
**Status:** Implemented June 2017

## **Mobile Crisis Teams – \$1 million BernCo/\$456,291 CABQ**

Mobile Crisis Teams are a City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County collaboration that responds to individuals experiencing a nonviolent behavioral health crisis that necessitates a 911-response. There will be four teams formed, two by Bernalillo County and two by the City of Albuquerque, with each team consisting of a crisis intervention unit deputy paired with a masters' level, behavioral health clinician.

**Subcommittee:** Crisis Services  
**Status:** Implemented February 2018

---

## **Youth Transitional Living – \$800,000 per year**

A new service intended for at-risk youth who are precariously housed or homeless with a mental health or addiction diagnosis. The funding provides youth transitional housing and services for clients with behavioral health diagnosis who are not currently under any state Children Youth and Families Department, Bernalillo County or other third party-funded program. This funding is available for non-third party reimbursement. An additional \$150,000 to the original \$650,000 proposal was approved to provide a housing bridge so that youth, who would otherwise would continue to be detained at YDC due to lack of safe transitional housing.

**Subcommittee:** Supportive Housing  
**Status:** Contract negotiations in process

---

## **Community Engagement Teams – up to \$1 million per year**

Community Engagement Teams (CETs) help people and their families voluntarily cope with the effects of mental illness and substance abuse disorders (whether individual or co-occurring) in the comfort and familiarity of their homes and communities pre and post crisis. The CET helps individuals avoid the criminal justice system and emergency hospital visits, whenever possible, and employs a recovery-focused approach that promotes wellness, self-management, personal recovery, natural supports, coping skills, self-advocacy, and development of independent living skills. Individuals or family members who could benefit from the CETs will be referred through crisis and warm lines, such as the New Mexico Crisis and Access Line (1-855-NMCRISIS), as well as the local law enforcement Crisis Intervention Team database and case management systems.

**Subcommittee:** Prevention, Intervention, Harm Reduction  
**Status:** Implementation by February 2018

**Peer Driven Drop-in Support Services – \$300,000 per year**

Peer driven drop-in support services provide a place where fellow participants support one another and receive services in order to assist each other in maintaining their current level of care in the community. 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, or churches.

**Subcommittee:** Community Supports

**Status:** RFP in process

**Peer Case Management – \$620,000 per year**

The intended intervention is a peer case management approach to help individuals 14 or older with a primary diagnosis of mental illness. This proposal seeks to draw from two case management models — Strengths-based Case Management and Peer Case Management.

**Subcommittee:** Community Supports

**Status:** RFP in process

**Case Management for Substance Abuse Disorder – \$750,000 per year/CABQ funded**

Provides intensive case management (ICM) services for individuals with substance use disorders to help navigate a complex service system and to obtain access to treatment and services that support and sustain recovery.

**Subcommittee:** Community Supports

**Status:** RFP in process

**UNM's Institute for Social Research (UNM/ISR) – \$246,553 per year**

Data analysis and evaluation to help identify target populations and best practices of services, as well as measures on the effectiveness of implemented services.

**Subcommittee:** Steering Committee

**Status:** Implemented July 2016

**Education and Training – \$3 million over three years**

A two-fold approach of education and training targeting behavioral health awareness, community training (i.e., such as Mental Health First Aid) and train-the-trainer programs that focus on raising awareness, understanding, and skills to deal with behavioral health issues. The intended target population includes individuals with direct contact with populations that navigate behavioral health needs, individuals who have direct contact due to their professions, and the general public.

**Subcommittee:** Prevention, Intervention, Harm Reduction

**Status:** RFP in process

**Transition Planning and Re-entry Resource Center – \$1,341,188 in year one; \$1,041,188 annually thereafter**

On a daily basis, the Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) releases individuals back to the community who suffer from a variety of mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders, among other complications. The project includes funding transition planners at MDC and creating a Re-entry Resource Center (RRC) for an effective front door into a network of services. A one-time renovation cost is allocated to the RRC, which is located at the Public Safety Center (401 Roma NW, Albuquerque).

**Subcommittee:** Crisis Services

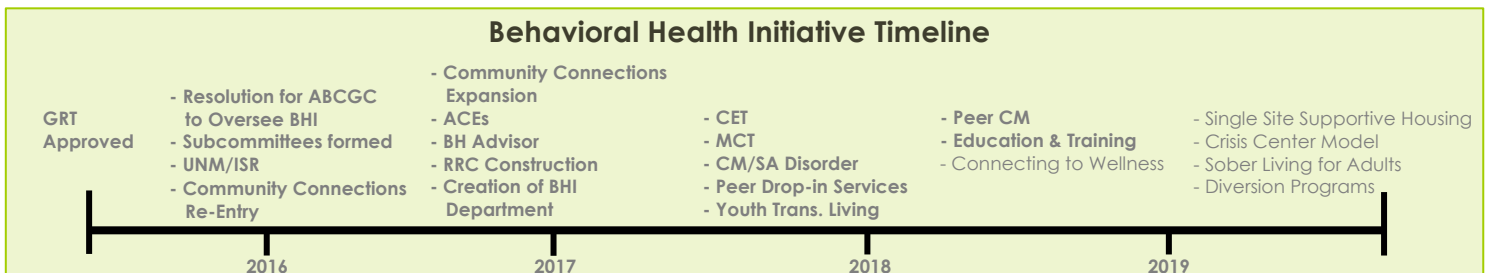
**Status:** Renovations underway/Opening by May 2018

**Behavioral Health Advisor – \$140,000 per year**

Provides guidance on the development and implementation of a behavioral health system and the overall behavioral health initiative, including written standardization of the governance and subcommittee structure, data analysis service evaluations, reports, best practices and targeting and changing new initiatives to continue to meet the needs of priority populations.

**Subcommittee:** Steering Committee

**Status:** Implemented July 2017



# BHI Community Updates

*Leveraging resources through collaboration to fill the gaps in our behavioral health system continuum*



## **Bernalillo County combines two departments to form the Department of Behavioral Health Services (DBHS)**

In a move to further leverage resources, Bernalillo County Commission approved merging the former Addiction Treatment Services and Behavioral Health Departments into the Department of Behavioral Health Services (DBHS). At the October 2017 meeting, the Commission also unanimously approved the hiring of 19 new, full-time positions to fully staff and support the department.

The mission of the newly formed department is — *To improve behavior health outcomes and reduce the incidence of DWI in Bernalillo County through innovative, cohesive and measurable programs, treatment services and supports aimed at preventing the incidence of crisis and substance use disorder.*

As we continue to transition, we have a tremendous opportunity along with great responsibility in developing a behavioral health continuum to serve the most vulnerable and at-risk populations," said Katrina Hotrum, director of the newly formed department.

Deputy County Manager Health & Public Safety Division Greg Perez

noted, "Combining these two departments simply makes sense. Since the Behavioral Health Initiative started, we've been 'borrowing' staff to help launch and support BHI programs."

With four different components for funding under Behavioral Health; over \$17 million dollars of tax revenue each year; and ongoing resources for DWI and other substance abuse prevention and treatment initiatives, Hotrum explained that under the new structure, "We'll be leveraging resources to maximize services, increase efficiencies, secure integrated services, and creating opportunities to leverage funding sources that would otherwise be held in separate departments."

## **DBHS Director Receives New Mexico Star Award**

BernCo's DBHS Director Katrina Hotrum was recently honored with the Behavioral Health Star award from the State of New Mexico for her *unshakeable pursuit* to remedy decades of neglect and a lack of supportive services for people living with a behavioral health diagnosis. Congratulations Katrina!

## **BernCo Participates in National Cities Thrive Event**

On December 4-5, New York City Mayor de Blasio and the First Lady brought together some of the nation's best thinkers to discuss how cities can learn from each other, share best practices and brainstorm new solutions at the *Cities Thrive Mental Health Leadership Conference*. Bernalillo County was invited to participate as a panelist to speak about the work of the Behavioral Health Initiative and what it is doing in *strengthening government's ability to lead*.

Approximately 200 participants, representing top government leadership from over 50 cities across the country were in attendance, with BernCo the only county to participate.

Highlights of the agenda included the role of government in leading the effort to create an equitable mental health system; identifying and sharing innovative programs currently underway in over 20 cities; and providing learning opportunities for cities interested in improving their behavioral health system.