

Behavioral Health Needs Assessment

January 17, 2024

Empowering Denver's communities to live better, longer

ARPA Project Planning

Community
Outreach

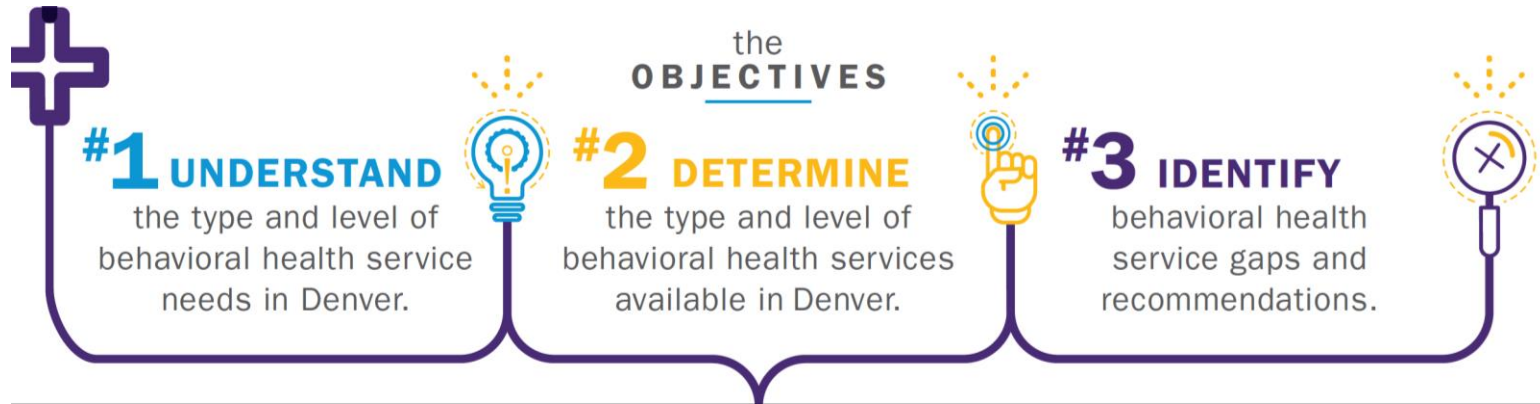


Behavioral
Health Needs
Assessment



2023 ARPA
Allocation

Project Overview






Methodology



General Findings



Accessing Behavioral Health Services is **VERY DIFFICULT**



VERY HIGH DEMAND
for Behavioral Health Services that Providers Cannot Meet

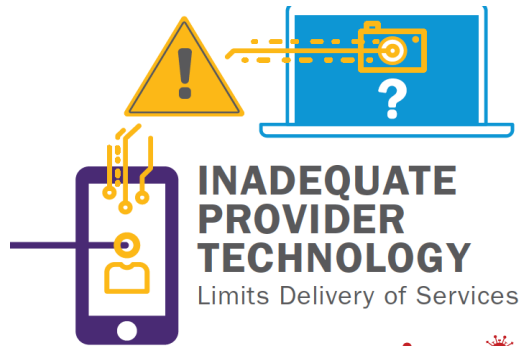
Provider Findings



Providers Have High
WORKFORCE TRAINING NEEDS



LOW WORKFORCE DIVERSITY
Limits Ability to Meet Some Community Needs



INADEQUATE PROVIDER TECHNOLOGY
Limits Delivery of Services




LIMITED FUNDING
Sources Available for Smaller Providers

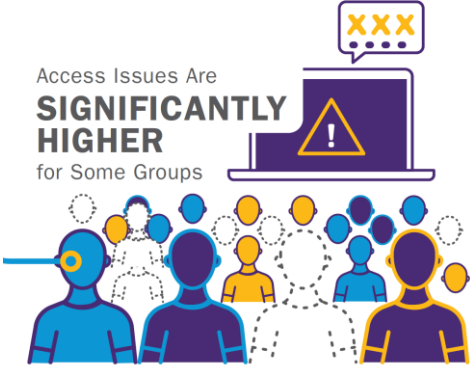
Community Findings

27 DAYS

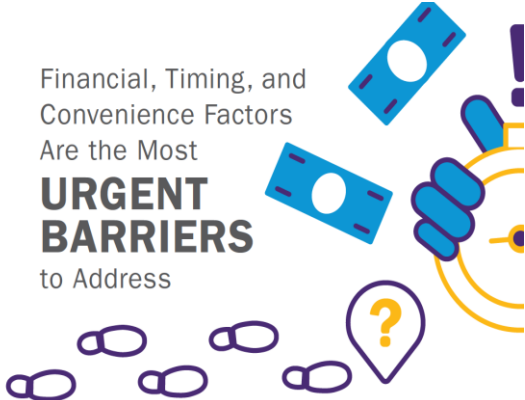
Was the Average Number of Days Looking for Services, Across All Service Types




Access Issues Are **SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER** for Some Groups



Financial, Timing, and Convenience Factors Are the Most **URGENT BARRIERS** to Address



“The pandemic has shown cracks in the behavioral health system and because of the pandemic we are seeing a massive influx in demand for services.”



COVID-19 Has
**NEGATIVELY
IMPACTED**

Behavioral Health and
Services Access

Recommendations

Recommendation

Early
Action
Steps

Systems-Level
Change

Behavioral Health Needs Assessment Recommendations

1. Provide leadership to engage critical stakeholders to improve services
2. Increase awareness of and improve provision of language access services
3. Increase the number of providers (including Medicaid) and retain them in Denver
4. Provide coordination and policy support to improve case management utilization
5. Educate and raise awareness for consumers around mental health treatment service options and how to connect to them
6. Increase culturally and linguistically responsive community outreach and involvement
7. Improve access to services by encouraging extended hours and weekends

Example

Provide leadership to engage critical stakeholders to improve behavioral health services.

Early Action

- Convene city human service provider agencies to discuss coordination of provider resources and obtain additional funding for direct services.

System-Level

- Work with other provider groups and collaborations to convene a broader partnership discussion for planning to address systemic gaps, especially for underserved communities.

Example

Educate and raise awareness for consumers around mental health treatment service options and how to connect to them.

Early Action

- Expand trainings
- Amplify Anti-Stigma and other efforts to continue to increase awareness and education around mental health and substance use issues
- Focus existing Anti-Stigma campaign on additional diverse community groups in different languages

System-Level

- Host culturally and linguistically appropriate community training programs to increase education and awareness around financial benefits.
- Create a long-term stigma reducing strategic plan that includes metrics to track progress.
- Implement Anti-Stigma campaigns and/or efforts directed at multiple intended diverse community groups.

Next Steps

1. Provide leadership to engage critical stakeholders to improve services
2. Increase awareness of and improve provision of language access services
3. Increase the number of providers (including Medicaid) and retain them in Denver
4. Provide coordination and policy support to improve case management utilization
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Next Steps

- Integrating findings and recommendations into behavioral health programing
- ARPA behavioral health contracts are in process