

Behavioral Health Programming Updates

DDPHE Community & Behavioral Health (CBH) Division

Empowering Denver's communities to live better, longer

Behavioral Health Needs Assessment

Published January 2023

- **Goal:** Understand the behavioral health service needs in Denver
- Qualitative and quantitative data from community/ service providers



Result:

7 recommendations

Behavioral Health Needs Assessment Recommendations

1. Provide leadership to engage critical stakeholders to improve behavioral health services.
2. Increase awareness of and improve provision for language access services.
3. Increase the number of providers (including Medicaid providers) and ensure that existing providers are maintained, within the City and County of Denver.
4. Provide coordination and policy support to improve case management utilization.

Behavioral Health Needs Assessment Recommendations

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.

Behavioral Health Services RFP



Youth Resiliency Liaison Program in Denver Public Schools

GOAL: Develop relationships with students struggling with behavioral issues to discover what is driving, the problems and connect them to resources

- Liaisons operate in selected DPS middle and high schools
- 240 individuals connected to services (as of April 2024)

FUTURE: Program funded by ARPA for a second year

- Ultimately scale up this successful approach district-wide

Program Success Story

Incident

- Referral after student was caught vaping in the bathroom.
- Violation of school policy
- Student at risk for disciplinary actions

Student-focused Response

- Relationship developed between student & liaison
- Student connected with Denver Dream Center for mentorship

Family-focused Response

- Family meeting set up at school
- Family connected with housing & food resources

Rapid Health Impact Assessment (RHIA)

May 11, 2024

- **Goal:** Improve services and supports for youth experiencing mental health distress
- Qualitative data from a Steering Committee made up of youth living in, or around, Denver and adults who work with youth



Result:
2 proposals

RHIA Proposals

Youth Mental Health App

- An app that creates a discreet online presence
- Covers the full spectrum of behavioral health needs and provide resources to support overall mental wellness

Youth-Led Mental Health & Wellness Center

- Youth-led mental health/wellness centers providing community-based, traditional and non-traditional programming
- Designed to provide support and services to youth and build pathways to mentorship and career development

Proposal Feedback and Future

Public Comment

Opportunity for public comment was made available on the DDPHE website.

Both youth and adult responses will be used to help effectively implement the proposals.

Implementation

Researching existing community apps as a potential platform to implement Youth Mental Health App recommendation.

Collaborating with community leaders and city agencies to develop a pilot Youth-Led Mental Health and Wellness Center at Rude Rec Center.

Questions?

Empowering Denver's communities to live better, longer