

## Behavioral Health Solutions Center Background

The Behavioral Health Solutions Center (BHSC) was first envisioned in 2014 as a facility that could provide coordinated 24/7/365 care, via a community vendor, for people experiencing a behavioral health crisis, particularly among people experiencing homelessness or housing instability. To that end, a search was started for a building and proposals solicited from qualified vendors to implement and manage the BHSC. As a part of this effort, the city agencies began work to identify a building, the difficulties of which led to significant delays; and issued a solicitation for proposals from qualified vendors to implement and manage the program.

The BHSC will be located at 2929 West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the Richard T. Castro Denver Human Services Center campus. The campus is located in the Sun Valley neighborhood, and provides access to services offered through Denver Human Services (DHS) and the Denver Health Westside Clinic. After identifying this site for the BHSC, delays were experienced due to the need to relocate pre-existing DHS programs to a new location located at 405 South Platte, Denver CO. Specifically, the designed space for relocating DHS programming required significant renovation prior to relocating services, and thereafter, the current location required renovations in preparation for implementing crisis stabilization and transitional sheltering programming. The renovations at the BHSC location are on track to be completed by the end of November. The Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD), the sole respondent to the City's solicitation, will be required to maintain a relationship in good standing with the Sun Valley Community Coalition, (SVCC) in accordance with the Good Neighbor Agreement, which was executed in January 2019. As previously referenced, there are two separate and distinct scopes of work that MHCD will be required to address. The services to be delivered at the BHSC are intended to provide critical short-term crisis response solutions, offer short-term housing accommodations, and support the development of a larger comprehensive crisis system.

The BHSC will be supervised by the Office of Behavioral Health Strategies located within the Community & Behavioral Health Division of the Department of Health & Human Services. The program will be provided via a services contract with MHCD, and currently includes a total of 56 mental health and support staff. Once deployed, the crisis stabilization component of the program can serve up to 1,133 people per year with an average length of stay of 5 days per person. The short-term shelter/transitional housing component of the program can serve up to 354 people per year with an average length of stay of 30 days per person. This assumes at least a 97% occupancy rate for the amount of time necessary to transition a bed from an outgoing program participant to the next incoming client.

The MHCD will also work under a Good Neighborhood Agreement (GNA) between the Sun Valley Community Coalition and the Mental Health Center of Denver. To ensure communication and adherence to the various components of the GNA, a Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) has been established that includes:

- Sun Valley Community Coalition Board
- Residents from Sun Valley Homes (Sun Valley Local Resident Council members)
- Decatur Place resident representative
- Decatur Place management

- Sun Valley Homes Management
- A Mental Health Clinician who is not employed by MHCD
- Fairview Elementary School
- Sun Valley Community Organization
- A neighborhood business
- Sun Valley Youth Center
- Rude Recreation Center
- Westside Health Clinic/Denver Health
- Denver Department of Social Services
- Office of Behavioral Health Strategies
- Denver Housing Authority
- Denver Police Department
- Denver Fire Department
- Manager of The Solution Crisis Center
- MHCD Management
- A first responder agency who is not already represented
- A representative from the Council Office, and
- Others as needed and approved by NAC

