

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics: Expanding Access to Care in New York.

New York is one of eight states selected for a federal demonstration to pilot a new model for community-based services to assist individuals needing access to care for severe mental illness or addiction. Building on our state's existing mental health and addiction system, these Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) are a new provider type that can offer a comprehensive range of treatment services to vulnerable individuals.

Too many individuals in New York are falling through the cracks as they try to navigate the patchwork of mental health, addiction, or crisis services that hospitals, schools, law enforcement, and other community organizations offer. Only about 6 in 10 Americans living with a serious mental illness receive the care they need; similarly, only 1 in 10 Americans living with an addiction receive treatment. **As a CCBHC, Endeavor Health Services helping to fill these gaps in unmet need by expanding access to community-based treatment**, relieving pressure on other parts of our health care, judicial, and social services systems.

Endeavor Health Services is the CCBHC serving Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Genesee and Monroe Counties. We provide mental health and addiction services to 5600 clients each year.

Our Outcomes as a CCBHC

As a result of participating in the CCBHC program, Endeavor Health Services has been able to dramatically improve our services. Among our successes so far:

- 70 additional professional and para professionals hired as a result of CCBHC
- Multi-disciplinary integrated team hired including; Psychiatrist, Primary Care Doctor, Nurses, Licensed Counselors, Peers and Psychosocial Rehab
- 18% more clients being served
- Same day walk-in access at all locations
- Reduction in number of unnecessary costly emergency room visits and hospital admissions
- Additionally Endeavor has achieved a 93.9% follow up rate for all referrals from area emergency department s for mental health conditions in our first year of implementation

As a result of CCBHC we have been able to partner with local police and embed clinical behavioral health staff to ride along with police, de-escalate situations as part of Crisis Intervention Teams. This helps to divert from jail and ER's while providing de-escalation, linkage and clinical support.

Our future is at risk

With the CCBHC demonstration set to end in May 2020, all of these gains could be lost.

- 75 staff at risk of layoff
- 2,000 clients who might lose access to CCBHC services
- Return of waiting lists and segregated services

We need the CCBHC program to be extended to allow our organization to continue our work.

Please support a two-year extension and 11-state expansion of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic demonstration as part of the health care extenders package under consideration in Congress.

Please feel free to contact me at 716 895-6700 for any questions you may have.

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