

## **Mental Health Center of Denver Criminal Justice Treatment Services and Partners:**

Mental Health Center of Denver offers a number of programs specifically designed to treat persons who serve who are also involved with the criminal justice system. These programs are targeted to individuals with varying types of charges from municipal ordinance violations to misdemeanors and felonies. Denver, with help from the National Gains Center, has mapped its mental health and criminal justice system and the Mental Health Center of Denver provides services at specific points on the intercept model. The Mental Health Center of Denver also works closely with the Forensic Program at the Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo to provide community treatment services to persons on Community Placement status and Conditional Release status returning to live in Denver.

### ***Mental Health Center of Denver Criminal Justice Programs:***

#### **Wellness Court Team**

The Wellness Court Team is a collaborative project between many organizations--Mental Health Center of Denver, Denver County Court, Denver Crime Prevention and Control Commission, Denver Sheriff and Denver Police Department Crisis Intervention Team, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless and ARTS--designed to provide access to much needed mental health and substance use treatment to vulnerable persons who frequently intersected with the criminal justice system in Denver County but for whom the behavioral health system and treatment is a more appropriate intervention.

Mental Health Center of Denver provides services to the 50 individuals identified for this project. The team provides Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), an evidenced-based approach integrating services essential for treatment and recovery from serious mental illness. These services include intensive clinical case management, medication evaluation, medication monitoring, substance use treatment, medical linkage and coordination with primary care, group therapy, residential treatment, supportive housing, vocational and benefits acquisition. Upon release from jail, new referrals are placed in temporary housing while the team helps them locate appropriate longer term housing and assists them in meeting other treatment goals. To facilitate on-going recovery and promote wellbeing, case management services are available seven days a week. Participants are eligible for Mental Health Center of Denver's supported employment program, 2Succeed, and in addition Mental Health Center of Denver utilizes the SOAR model of benefit acquisition and it is expected that most participants will use our Personal Financial Services system as their payee.

#### **ReACT Program, 4455 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Ave.:**

The ReACT Program treats 65 adults with serious mental illness who are identified by Mental Health Center of Denver and/or referred by other providers and criminal justice agencies as being in need of Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) level services and are at risk of criminal justice involvement. The program is funded primarily through the Office of Behavior Health and Medicaid/Medicare.

Referral criteria includes the presence of a severe mental illness, little engagement in treatment in the community (refusal or difficulty taking medication, greater than the majority of services delivered in the Emergency Department/Acute Treatment Unit/Mobile Crisis,) difficulty meeting basic needs independently in the community including homelessness, difficulty entering into the treatment process, substance use/addiction issues or other difficult medical issues which complicate recovery and their pursuit of wellbeing.

Indicators of Criminal justice involvement include currently being on parole or probation or one or more arrests regardless of offense classification. Indicators of risk for initial involvement with the criminal legal system include evidence of police interaction/intervention, civil infractions, illicit drugs or alcohol addiction, diagnosis of anti-social personality disorder, disorder of impulse control or conduct disorder.

**Colorado Second Chance Housing and Re-Entry Program, C-SHARP, Expansion Team 4455 E.12<sup>th</sup> Ave.: (grant ended 2018).**

In January 2016 The Mental Health Center of Denver partnered with the State Department of Housing, the Department of Local Affairs, the State Department of Corrections and Aspen Point in Colorado Springs to develop and implement the C-SHARP program as a scattered-site supported housing prison re-entry program that works with extensive networks of local landlords and community partners to provide housing and mental health and substance use treatment to offenders returning to the community. C-SHARP utilizes high fidelity Assertive Community Treatment, Integrated Dual Disorders Treatment, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Trauma Recovery and Empowerment Model, Housing First and SOAR benefit acquisition strategies to assist participants in their recovery. C-SHARP treats 30 persons (10 with sex offender status) at any given time at the Mental Health Center of Denver and Aspen Point.

**Frequent User Service Enhancement; (FUSE) 4455 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Ave.:**

Mental Health Center of Denver, in collaboration with Denver's Road Home, the Corporation for Supportive Housing and the Denver County Jail has implemented the Frequent Users Service Enhancement, FUSE, a program providing access to much needed treatment services for 26 participants. These are individuals seriously challenged with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders who are frequently involved in the justice system. FUSE creates capacity within the community to outreach and engage adult offenders with these disorders in a higher intensity case management model using a 17:1 consumer to case manager ratio. The approach integrates services essential for treatment and recovery from serious mental illness including: intensive clinical case management services, medication evaluation, medication monitoring, substance use treatment, linkage and medical coordination with primary care, group therapy, residential treatment, supportive housing, and vocational and benefits acquisition/management. The program also provides Integrated Dual Disorders Treatment, trauma specific treatment and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy treatment to reduce criminogenic risk factors. FUSE is closely linked with the Denver County Court and the on-site psychiatric nursing services at the Denver County Jail as well as the mental health transition units at the jail. FUSE is specifically designed to reduce the "revolving door process" by achieving a seamless transition from jail back to the community and into intensive mental health treatment with essential services supporting a successful recovery that includes reduced recidivism, decreased jail days, longer housing tenure and improved recovery outcomes.

**PHASE:**

The PHASE program, operating from Phoenix Multi-Sport and 303 W Colfax, is a stabilization and engagement program where selected offenders can report to daily while under probation or parole

supervision. Since opening in spring 2014, PHASE has served over 323 individuals and is currently serving 70 individuals who have mental health needs.

Originally, PHASE was started because probation and parole did not have the capacity to effectively provide services to this population of offenders who need but are not yet ready to participate in available intensive mental health treatment services. In addition, the target population often has a large amount of unsupervised time, which increases the risk to public safety and further criminal behavior. Research suggests that the likelihood of re-offending increases 40–70% if a formerly incarcerated individual's time is unoccupied (Przybyiski, R. 2008). Additionally, in looking specifically at 2010-2012 arrest data for Triangle Park—a high-crime geographic hot-spot (drug, public nuisance, FTAs) in metro Denver with approximately 76% of the population either on or having had been on probation or parole. Of significant interest, 50% of the arrests took place between the hours of 8 AM and 5 PM.

In general, Day Reporting Centers serve the purpose of: supporting safety and providing intervention services to prevent future offending. Services may include education, vocational training, mental health and substance use treatment, and address other needs that may increase the successful community reentry of persons. Monitoring may include mandatory report times, drug/alcohol screens, needs/risks assessments, etc.

### **Co-Responder Program:**

The Co-Responder program is a joint project between Mental Health Center of Denver and the Denver Police with the primary base of operation located with the Denver Police Department. Staff work with police to provide a response to persons in the community in crisis or in need of appropriate interventions; at times response may be with other emergency, corrections and first responders. The goals of the Co-Responder initiative, in essence, is to assist Denver Police in determining the best response to persons they encounter who are presenting with a possible mental health issue, brain injury, intellectual disability and/or other behavior(s) that require action even when a “law enforcement” based intervention is not immediately warranted. Co-Responders take the lead from the police officer(s) once the scene is deemed safe and the police have completed their criminal justice assessment. Up to this point Co-Responders are researching what is known about the person; providing a clinical assessment of the individual's needs and identifying the most appropriate service response and/or treatment setting for the person. They, along with the police and/or other responders, maximize the likelihood that appropriate referrals are made and services are rendered. Post initial response, Mental Health Center of Denver Co-Responders continue providing short-term and pro-active system navigation and coordination to ensure the person is engaged with appropriate resources and services.

### **Behavioral Health Care Coordinator-**

Mental Health Center of Denver provides a Behavioral Health Care Coordinator connected to the Co-Responder Treatment Team that liaisons with Denver Police, Denver District and County Courts and the Denver Sheriff's Department to assist in planned linkages, advocacy, brief case-management/ system navigation and referral coordination for persons in jail where the issue of competency has been raised and the person is being released and/or found incompetent or who has had a long-term certification through Probate Court. This staff person connects with Medicaid and treatment providers to coordinate services.