



## mhca Bulletin – June 16, 2022

### MEMBER NEWS

#### Denver's Shining STAR

Three days after the Floyd murder sparked demonstrations and demands for change in cities across the country, the first of the Mile High City's STAR vans hit the streets. The concept grew out of an existing program that started in 2016 in which a behavioral health specialist from the Mental Health Center of Denver (now **WellPower**) is sent with sworn officers on similar sorts of calls.

<https://www.newsweek.com/2022/06/24/defund-police-dead-other-reform-efforts-thrive-us-cities-1709393.html>

#### New program at Phoenix center offering mental health support for teens

"Café 27 is new, we just opened last year, but we've already been able to help over 200 families with our program," said Kim McWilliams, Senior Director of Clinical Excellence and Children's Services at **Terros Health**.

<https://www.azfamily.com/2022/05/17/new-program-phoenix-center-offering-mental-health-support-teens/>

#### Wellstone plans to build mental health crisis center in Huntsville for kids

A mental health crisis center for kids is coming to Huntsville. It will be the first of its kind in Alabama. Right now, there are crisis units in hospitals but not an entire center dedicated to helping kids during a mental health emergency. That is where Wellstone Behavioral Health comes in.

[https://www.waaytv.com/news/wellstone-plans-to-build-mental-health-crisis-center-in-huntsville-for-kids/article\\_8f34d13e-e288-11ec-943a-2b0cbd0aed8b.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.waaytv.com/news/wellstone-plans-to-build-mental-health-crisis-center-in-huntsville-for-kids/article_8f34d13e-e288-11ec-943a-2b0cbd0aed8b.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=user-share)

#### Group pilot project to be held in our region

Tami Brucato, a **LifeSkills** school-based therapist, is excited to be part of the AFFIRM Cognitive Behavioral Group Therapy pilot program that's being offered this summer through a partnership between LifeSkills and the University of Maryland. "The main goal of AFFIRM is to offer affirmative coping skills to youths, ages 12 to

21, who may benefit from support with their sexuality and gender identity,” Brucato said.

[https://www.bgdailynews.com/community/group-pilot-project-to-be-held-in-our-region/article\\_70a9d83b-19ea-5868-9be6-81b7fcaafca.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.bgdailynews.com/community/group-pilot-project-to-be-held-in-our-region/article_70a9d83b-19ea-5868-9be6-81b7fcaafca.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=user-share)

### **Federal funding allows United Services to add primary care offerings in Killingly, Mansfield**

United Services' officials anticipate an infusion of federal funding will allow the behavioral health agency to add primary care services at two of its Windham County facilities.

<https://www.norwichbulletin.com/story/news/local/2022/03/29/united-services-use-federal-dollars-add-primary-care-ct-killingly-mansfield/7126051001/>

### **Watch Vinfen's Innovative Technology in Behavioral Health Conference On Demand**

Did you miss out on our virtual Innovative Technology in Behavioral Health Conference a few weeks ago? You can now view the on-demand event videos & speaker presentations to catch up on the latest advancements in digital behavioral healthtech.

<https://vinfen.org/tech-conference/>

### **The Mental Health Center of Denver Emerges: WellPower**

Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD) emerges from the pandemic with a new name and renewed focus on well-being, found in WellPower.

[https://www.cobizmag.com/the-mental-health-center-of-denver-emerges-wellpower/?utm\\_source=second-street&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=eNews+5/4/22](https://www.cobizmag.com/the-mental-health-center-of-denver-emerges-wellpower/?utm_source=second-street&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=eNews+5/4/22)

### **Alachua County moves forward with mental health central receiving system**

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare CEO Donald Savoie said they would serve walk-ins as well as adults and kids. “It gives us the ability to pick someone up before they fall too far. And it gives us the ability to use the resources in the county very, very effectively,” Savoie said.

<https://mycbs4.com/news/local/alachua-county-moves-forward-with-mental-health-central-receiving-system>

## **INDUSTRY NEWS**

### **Rural health care challenges go beyond a lack of doctors**

People living in rural areas have long had difficulty accessing health care, a situation usually attributed to a lack of nearby care providers. But a new study suggests the problem also lies in the financial, cultural and interpersonal challenges many rural residents face when they seek care, especially for chronic conditions.

<https://www.contemporarypediatrics.com/view/rural-health-care-challenges-go-beyond-a-lack-of-doctors>

### **HHS announces first-ever behavioral health recovery innovation challenge**

The Challenge provides \$400,000 and will offer up to ten awards. The deadline for submission is July 15, 2022. All submission materials must be submitted through the SAMHSA Recovery Innovation Challenge page on the U.S. Challenge website.

<https://www.naco.org/blog/hhs-announces-first-ever-behavioral-health-recovery-innovation-challenge>

### **Cerebral Focusing on Serious Mental Illness, Putting Some 'Exploratory' Expansion Plans on Hold**

Cerebral is doubling down on mental health and focusing on treating patients with serious mental illness. The digital mental health company's newly minted CEO, David Mou, told Behavioral Health Business that under his direction the company will have an emphasis on value-based care and treating serious mental illness, including substance use disorder.

[https://bhbusiness.com/2022/06/10/cerebral-is-doubling-down-on-mental-health-and-focusing-on-treating-patients-with-serious-mental-illness/?euid=5ea7e2fa61&utm\\_source=bhb-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=69809db729&mc\\_cid=69809db729&mc\\_eid=5ea7e2fa61](https://bhbusiness.com/2022/06/10/cerebral-is-doubling-down-on-mental-health-and-focusing-on-treating-patients-with-serious-mental-illness/?euid=5ea7e2fa61&utm_source=bhb-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=69809db729&mc_cid=69809db729&mc_eid=5ea7e2fa61)

### **Improving Behavioral Health Care For Older Americans: If Not Now, When?**

Aging is associated with unique challenges that can negatively impact mental health, including loss of social support, increased illness burden, and functional decline. For many reasons, including ageism, mental health conditions such as depression among seniors often go underdiagnosed and undertreated. Many older adults with mental illnesses also have chronic physical illnesses. The reverse is also true: Living with chronic physical illnesses makes seniors even more likely to have or develop a mental health condition, which itself can be life-shortening.

<https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/forefront.20220606.792225/>

### **'TELEMEDICINE UNTETHERED' LOOKS TO ELIMINATE VIRTUAL WAITING ROOM**

UC San Diego Health borrows strategies from the restaurant and airline industries and text messages patients when their providers are available.

<https://www.healthleadersmedia.com/telehealth/telemedicine-untethered-looks-eliminate-virtual-waiting-room>

## **BUSINESS NEWS & LEADERSHIP ARTICLES**

### **Fear factor: Overcoming human barriers to innovation**

Worries about failure, criticism, and career impact hold back many people from embracing innovation. Here's how to create a culture that accounts for the human side of innovation.

<https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/strategy-and-corporate-finance/our-insights/fear-factor-overcoming-human-barriers-to-innovation?cid=soc-web>

### Having trouble with empathy? Try curiosity instead

Nearly three-quarters of CEOs surveyed by AlixPartners are concerned that disruption will send them out the door, and adding "squishy" empathy to their skills can be a major stumbling block, leadership expert Ted Bililies of AlixPartners writes. However, curiosity -- asking employees about their goals, concerns and experiences -- can fulfill the same needs and Bililies explains how.

<https://chiefexecutive.net/stop-telling-ceos-to-be-empathetic/>

Past issues of this publication are available online at: <https://mhca.com/about-us/member-news>

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