



SHG chosen for SIM Integration Pilot Site

In early November, the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council (CBHC) announced that Southeast Health Group was chosen as one of four behavioral health centers across the state to participate in a Bi-Directional Integration Demonstration and Practice-Based Research Pilot Program within the Colorado SIM initiative. The four sites include the Community Reach Center in Thornton, Jefferson Center for Mental Health in Wheatridge, Mental Health Partners of Boulder, and Southeast Health Group. They will each receive \$1.2 million to carry out the work of the initiative.

“SIM” stands for the Colorado State Innovation Model, a \$65 million award from the Center

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for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) to implement and test a statewide health care innovation plan. A central goal of the SIM project is the integration of behavioral

health and primary care. The Colorado State Innovation Model

touches nearly every aspect of our health system, setting the stage for a sweeping transformation that will accelerate progress toward the Triple Aim of lower costs, better care and improved population health.

These four sites were selected based on demonstrated capacity to deliver key learnings through the proposed models of bi-directional integrated care. The term “bi-directional” refers to the practice of bringing behavioral health care services into the primary care setting, and also bringing primary care services into the behavioral health care setting. The learnings, involving new data management and payment models, will be shared broadly and will help to drive lasting transformational change within the changing landscape of behavioral health in Colorado.

Behavioral health integration will improve population health by addressing behavioral factors that often impede the management of



SIM

State Innovation Model

chronic health problems, especially obesity, smoking and diabetes. Improving access to behavioral health services and programs for most Coloradans is the cornerstone of the Colorado transformation effort.

“We’ve been working hard at integration for several years,” said Dr. JC Carrica, Chief Operating Officer for Southeast Health Group. “We now have several mid-level practitioners on-site, and this 3-year project will help us to expand integrated services into a new location in Lamar, and increase our availability in La Junta and Rocky Ford. We know that having a one-stop shop for head-to-toe care is ideal for patients and leads to better health outcomes and healthier communities.”

For more information about the Colorado SIM Initiative, go to www.colorado.gov/healthinnovation.