



CBC IPA Has Been Awarded \$5 million to Improve Service Access for Adults with Serious Behavioral Health Disorders

Coordinated Behavioral Care (CBC) Independent Practice Association (IPA) and eight innovative community-based organizations will be launching a new initiative in New York City (NYC) this summer to connect at least 1,500 New Yorkers with serious behavioral health (BH) disorders to recovery services designed to help them live stable, healthy lives in community settings. Three managed care organizations—Healthfirst, Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield and EmblemHealth—have awarded the CBC IPA over \$5 Million—10% of New York State’s \$50 Million Adult BH Infrastructure Funding: to engage, assess and connect eligible individuals enrolled in their plans with rehabilitation, employment, education, peer support and other services. The funding will also enable the eight participating agencies: ACMH, The Bridge, Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services, New Horizon Counseling Center, Postgraduate Center for Mental Health, Samaritan Daytop Village, The Jewish Board and Services for the Underserved, to expand community service capacity.

CBC’s comprehensive initiative was developed in response to NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) and Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) making available \$50 Million to managed care organizations (MCOs) throughout the state that operate specialized Medicaid health plans called HARPs (Health and Recovery Plans) for adults with serious BH conditions. The funding was provided so that these MCOs could contract with BH networks and provider agencies for services to increase the numbers of HARP members who receive BH Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). HCBS are designed to support recovery and community stability for people with complex behavioral, medical and social issues.

“With these funds, the CBC IPA will reach thousands of individuals who are eligible, but not receiving employment training, peer support, rehabilitation and other services that can make the difference in whether an individual is employed next year or back in the hospital,” says Jorge Petit, MD, CBC IPA Chief Executive Officer. “Newly hired care managers, peer navigators and community service workers will engage and support these high-need individuals in community settings, with the goal of advancing their recovery and reducing preventable hospital visits.”

The CBC IPA and the eight community agencies plan to reach out to over 4,000 potentially eligible NYC residents enrolled in the HARPs operated by the three MCOs, providing eligibility assessment and care planning services to about 3,700 HARP members. CBC and its agencies hope to assist 50%, or more, participate in individualized services tailored to their goals and needs. Individuals not already enrolled in Health Home care coordination services will receive help joining the CBC Health Home or another one of their choice.

“CBC and the participating community-based agencies are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Healthfirst, Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield and EmblemHealth to build the infrastructure to sustain a strong network of community services,” says CBC Board Chair Donna Colonna. “These MCOs will be able to better support their members as a result of our collaboration.”

About CBC: CBC is a results-driven healthcare organization dedicated to improving the quality of care for Medicaid beneficiaries with serious mental illness, chronic health conditions and/or substance use disorders. CBC seeks to create a healthcare environment where New Yorkers—especially those most impacted by social determinants of health—receive coordinated, individualized and culturally competent care that is effective in preventing and managing chronic physical and behavioral health conditions. We help New Yorkers live long, healthy and fulfilling lives. CBC was launched in 2011 by innovative NYC not-for-profit behavioral health organizations in order to meaningfully participate in NYS’s Medicaid redesign and Value Based Purchasing initiatives. In the following years CBC developed a citywide Health Home, which is currently one of the largest of its type in NYC. CBC “knits together” affiliated programs to holistically address individuals’ treatment and recovery needs, while assessing community deficiencies and connecting individuals to needed support. CBC has launched effective gap-filling service programs for low-income New Yorkers that build on the expertise of its community-based service network. These innovative initiatives connect individual in the community using a variety of evidence-based care transition and crisis service models, which fill identified, critical service gaps. The HCBS Infrastructure Initiative is the newest addition to the CBC IPA service array.

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