



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:
CBC AND CBHS, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
NYS OMH AND OASAS, RECEIVE SAMHSA EMERGENCY COVID-19 AWARD

OMH and OASAS, in partnership with Coordinated Behavioral Care (CBC) and Coordinated Behavioral Health Services (CBHS) IPAs, successfully applied and received Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Fiscal Year 2020 Emergency Grants to Address Mental and Substance Use Disorders During COVID-19 (Emergency COVID-19) Award.

SAMHSA has expedited its processes to release emergency grants to strengthen access to treatments for substance use disorders and serious mental illnesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. SAMHSA's expectations are that the current national crisis precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic will contribute to an unprecedented increase in the number of Americans grappling with behavioral health (BH) disorders, including depression, anxiety, trauma and grief. Healthcare workers and first responders are a population of particular concern.

As such, CBC and CBHS developed, in coordination with our state partners, the following proposal: Strengthening Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment, Recovery Support and Crisis Care to Address the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Residents of New York City and the Lower Hudson Valley. This \$2M grant will enable the IPAs' network providers to better address mental health and substance use disorders during COVID-19 in the hardest hit areas of NYS—the five counties of New York City (NYC), as well as the Lower Hudson Valley counties of Westchester, Rockland and Orange. NYS OMH and OASAS are passing through the entire grant to CBC (CBC is contributing its administrative fees in kind). NYC services will be funded with 75% of the grant and Hudson Valley services with 25%. Both NYC and Hudson Valley community providers will receive capacity-building assistance to support telehealth services. .

The project goals are to (1) engage New Yorkers impacted by COVID-19, including health care workers and people without serious BH conditions, in brief crisis counseling and treatment services as needed using easily accessed telehealth services and by removing any financial barriers; (2) facilitate person-centered service continuum for people with serious disorders through telehealth and in-person services if necessary in order to promote and support recovery, while managing BH crises in the community; and 3) Improving transitions of care for people with serious BH conditions to shorten inpatient length of stay and stabilize people with SMI and SUD in community settings.

“An important project goal will be to mitigate the negative impacts of this COVID-19 crisis on the emotional wellbeing of new Yorkers in the most impacted counties by addressing depression, stress, trauma, bereavement, substance use and other issues that undermine the ability of New Yorkers to live happy, productive lives after this crisis abates,” stated Jorge R. Petit, MD, President and CEO of CBC.

This proposal targets children, adolescents, adults and families impacted by COVID-19 who fall into 3 categories: (1) People with serious mental illness (SMI), substance use disorders (SUDs), and/or those with co-occurring SMI and SUDs; (2) New Yorkers without a serious behavioral health (BH) condition who are at risk of a mental health (MH) condition and/or a SUD; and (3) Healthcare workers, including those providing OMH and OASAS services, who are experiencing BH risk factors.

To achieve these goals, CBC will convene a NYC Steering Committee made up of several community behavioral health agency representatives, NYC DOHMH, OMH, DOH and OASAS. CBHS will convene a Lower Hudson Valley Steering Committee with a similar make-up of stakeholders. The Steering Committees will help to develop a project plan, establish the outcome measures, and implement this 16-month project. This collaborative effort will be an opportunity to create a truly impactful value-add COVID-19 response within the existing infrastructure of current programming.

Richard Tuten, JD, President and CEO of CBHS commented, “CBC and CBHS are extremely excited about this opportunity to demonstrate the effectiveness of a clinically integrated network of community-based providers that each IPA represents and how they can bolster and adapt the existing infrastructure of behavioral health interventions to meet the needs of the most vulnerable and impacted New Yorkers.”