

## Support the Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Expansion Act (S. 1905/H.R. 3931)

Section 223 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 established a federal definition and criteria for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs). These entities, a new provider type in Medicaid, provide a comprehensive range of addiction and mental health services to vulnerable individuals while meeting additional requirements related to staffing, governance, data and quality reporting, and more. In return, CCBHCs receive a Medicaid reimbursement rate based on their anticipated costs of expanding services to meet the needs of these complex populations.

Missouri's participation in the demonstration began in July 2017 and there are currently 15 CCBHCs across the state. The National Council for Behavioral Health surveyed all CCBHCs in November 2017 and preliminary findings from Missouri show CCBHCs are quickly becoming an answer to many of the state's mental health and substance use treatment challenges.

### CCBHCs are Creating Jobs and Increasing Access to Care

In Missouri, 10 CCBHCs (100% of those surveyed) reported that they have added new staff positions.

- **227 new positions** have been added, including **29 psychiatrists** and **25 staff with an addiction specialty or focus**.
- **Nine CCBHCs (90% of those surveyed)** reported that they have seen an increase in the number of patients served.
  - Most new clients either were not previously been enrolled in treatment despite having a mental health or substance use need, or were newly referred to treatment for the first time, an indicator of these organizations' ability to expand access to care in their communities.
- 70% improved outreach to clients, reducing no-shows and improving treatment adherence.

### CCBHCs are Addressing Comorbid Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders More Than Ever Before

CCBHCs are, for many communities in Missouri, the first integrated mental health and substance use treatment facilities. Since the launch of the demonstration, clinics have reported implementing the following activities:

- 90% have hired new staff with an addiction focus.
- 50% hired peer recovery specialists for recovery support.
- 60% have expanded Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs and 50% began offering MAT.

### CCBHCs are Partnering with Hospitals and Law Enforcement to Decrease Ancillary Costs

CCBHCs nationwide report that the new payment rate has enabled them to open new service lines and leverage new technologies to improve care. In Missouri, CCBHCs reported activities include:

- 70% have implemented new care delivery or outreach partnerships with hospitals
- 60% have expanded access to crisis care
- 50% implemented same-day access protocols

*"We know that not treating a mental illness or substance use disorder increases risk of recidivism. The CCBHC demonstration is going to make a significant difference in that cycle."*

### Future of the CCBHC demonstration in Missouri

The CCBHC demonstration is transforming Missouri clinics' ability to serve people in their communities. Unfortunately, without Congressional action, the state's fifteen CCBHCs will be forced to stop in their tracks when the program ends in 2019. The bipartisan Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Expansion

Act (S. 1905/H.R. 3931), authored by Missouri Senator Roy Blunt with Senator Debbie Stabenow, would extend Missouri CCBHCs' activities for an additional year and expand the program to include 11 other states that applied for the demonstration but were barred from participation by the eight-state limit in current law.

*"We have been very successful thus far, and have great hopes in continuing as a CCBHC. This demonstration to date has been big success for our communities, and we hope that it continues to expand. [...] in the long run it will save taxpayer money. We will be able to serve more patients, reduce hospital readmission rates, and save money."*

**We urge members of the Missouri Congressional delegation to sign on with Senator Blunt as cosponsors of the bill** to extend this important program that in six months has already proven to be beneficial to Missouri.

**We urge State Legislators to continue to follow legislation and support the expansion of this vital program** that has created and will continue to create jobs and contribute to a healthier Missouri.