What is a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC)?

Our goal is to make mental health and addiction treatment convenient and accessible for all Marylanders. CCBHCs are 24-hour clinics that address the comprehensive behavioral health needs of children and adults, and have been successful in big cities and rural areas alike—both New York City and Nowata, Oklahoma were among the first pilot programs in the nation. Today, 23 states have adopted the CCBHC model.

What problems do CCBHCs solve in Maryland?

- **Get immediate access to care.**
  - The CCBHC model allows providers to slash wait times for treatment. According to a recent National Council for Mental Wellbeing survey, half of all CCBHCs provide same-day access, while a full 93% can see patients within ten days. That’s a marked improvement over the 48-day national average wait for mental health or addiction treatment.

- **Insurance coverage isn’t a barrier.**
  - Had trouble finding a provider in your insurance network that will see new patients or has the expertise you need? CCBHCs are required to provide treatment to children and adults regardless of insurance or ability to pay for care.

- **Get a range of services from an array of professionals in one place.**
  - People experiencing mental health crises may need a combination of care. PTSD, addiction, anxiety, diabetes and hypertension are interrelated, for example, but our current system forces people to seek separate care at multiple facilities, each with its own wait lists and transportation barriers. CCBHCs offer a variety of services in a single visit, often without the need for an appointment, and care teams can coordinate treatment with an understanding of the patient’s full history.

- **Services can be delivered outside of the four walls of a clinic.**
  - CCBHCs can be customized to meet local needs. Some have piloted mobile access facilities that can meet families in their homes and students at their schools. Others have embedded themselves with local law enforcement units so that police need not be the first responders for problems better addressed by mental health professionals. The flexible cost model allows local clinics to decide where to invest their resources, whether that be renting space in a dense urban neighborhood or providing mobile services for rural areas with spread-out populations.
Across the country, CCBHCs break long-standing barriers.

**Need to get people off the waitlist?**
CCBHCs can do that!

In **New York**, all CCBHCs have eliminated wait lists and individuals can receive services when they want an appointment. New York also reported a 24% increase in providing children and adolescent services, noting that this was possible, in part, because the CCBHC rate allowed providers to hire more staff.

**Need better access to treatment to address the opioid crisis?**
CCBHCs can do that!

In **New Jersey**, CCBHCs nearly doubled the number of clients receiving medication-assisted treatment (MAT) from the first to the second demonstration year.

**Got a police officer needing help to divert people from jail to treatment?**
CCBHCs can do that!

In **Oklahoma**, all CCBHCs have issued tablets (iPads) to law enforcement agencies. The tablets are equipped with a function that immediately connects law enforcement officers to treatment providers at local CCBHCs – 24 hours a day, seven days a week – for an assessment determining what care might be needed for someone having a mental health or substance use crisis.

**Need more specialty services for children?**
CCBHCs can do that!

**Pennsylvania** reported an 85% increase in the number of evidence-based services provided by CCBHCs, outpacing the state’s goal of a 10% increase. **Oregon** and **Minnesota** also used the CCBHC model to expand evidence-based practices like Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), trauma-focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and improve early childhood assessments.

**Need to improve language access for special populations?**
CCBHCs can do that!

In **Maryland**, Cornerstone Montgomery received a temporary grant to develop its capacity to be a CCBHC. The organization invested in translation technology. It has now delivered over 16,000 minutes of translation in 21 languages. This funding has allowed Cornerstone Montgomery to expand the translation services from 904 to almost 15,000 annually.

**Got an emergency room filled with patients needing behavioral health support?**
CCBHCs can do that!

In its first year, **New York** reported a 54% decrease in CCBHC clients using behavioral health inpatient care, which translated to a 27% decrease in monthly costs. Similarly, the state reported a 46% decrease in the number of clients using the emergency department, leading to a 26% reduction in monthly costs. New York also saw a 61% decrease in the number of clients using general inpatient services and a 54% decrease in all-cause readmissions.

sustain and support CCBHCs Maryland has five grant-funded CCBHCs. CBH seeks to ensure that the CCBHC model is sustained and expanded statewide to ensure that Maryland residents can access comprehensive, high-quality mental health and addiction treatment when and where they need it.