



## DPHHS Workstreams

Behavioral Health System for Future  
Generations Commission  
July 20, 2023



# Active DPHHS Workstreams to Support Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Services Reforms

## Strategy and Alignment Support

The Department of Administration (DOA), on behalf of the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), has issued a request for proposal (RFP) seeking an experienced contractor qualified to support DPHHS in designing and implementing a cohesive behavioral health system and developmental disability service strategy that meets the needs of Montana with excellence.

*Note that DPHHS is in an active procurement and, pursuant to requirements set forth by the Montana Procurement Act, must be sensitive about information shared at this time.*

- RFP closes on 07/19/2023; direct any procurement-related questions to Kristy Hernandez at DOA.
- RFP can be accessed through Montana's electronic Montana Acquisition and Contracting System (eMACS).
- July and August actions will include RFP scoring, vendor selection, contract refinement, and potentially contract issuance.

## Request for Information (RFI)

DPHHS is soliciting information to assist in developing near-term and long-term strategies to strengthen the continuum of behavioral health and developmental disability services to Montanans. Feedback from patients, family members, advocates, and/or providers is critical to better understand challenges and opportunities and to develop strategies to improve service delivery systems. This RFI seeks input on actions that could be taken in calendar year 2023 and 2024 that would provide stabilization or improvement of services to individuals with a behavioral health and/or developmental disability diagnosis.

- The formal RFI [can be accessed through eMACS](#).

In addition, DPHHS has developed an informal RFI process to reach stakeholders not inclined to respond through eMACS (non-contractors).

- The Non-eMACS, informal RFI can be accessed at [futuregenerations.mt.gov](http://futuregenerations.mt.gov).

Responses from the formal and informal RFI processes will be consolidated into an executive summary and posted at [futuregenerations.mt.gov](http://futuregenerations.mt.gov). Individual responses will be posted to the webpage once a privacy and redaction review is completed.

### **Alternative Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Settings Project**

DPHHS partnered with Guidehouse to proactively launch an initiative designed to identify and implement promising and best practice approaches to improving access to regional behavioral health and developmental disabilities service settings, with a focus on reducing overdependence on state-run health care facilities and ensuring civilly committed and other individuals in the care of the State are being served in the most clinically appropriate settings. The initiative will identify the services, costs, and rates necessary to improve the continuum of care and treat Montanans in clinically appropriate and accessible behavioral health and co-occurring treatment settings beyond DPHHS's current facilities.

To ensure a variety of stakeholder perspectives are included in the initiative while supporting focused discussions, Guidehouse will facilitate a series of community conversations through a steering committee and three topic-based subcommittees:

- Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Alternative Settings Steering Committee
- Continuum of Care Subcommittee
- Access Subcommittee
- Workforce Subcommittee

Major deliverables of the engagement include a feasibility assessment to determine alternative delivery models and associated costs for care delivery, as well as a "build vs buy" analysis to determine costs and reimbursement methods for capital investments in modernized settings.

### **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Model Implementation**

DPHHS received a federal grant to plan for recognition and payment of CCBHCs in the Medicaid program. The Department has contracted with Guidehouse to focus on transforming Montana's community behavioral health system by:

- (a) planning for, development, and implementation of a new CCBHC integrated provider model that meets Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) certification criteria;
- (b) providing technical assistance (TA) support to two service providers selected by DPHHS to provide a comprehensive range of outreach, screening,

assessment, treatment, care coordination, and recovery supports based on a needs assessment that aligns with the CCBHC certification criteria; and (c) assisting DPHHS in the development of a prospective payment system daily rate for each clinic.

### **CMS Certification Support and Executive Facilities Management**

DPHHS has partnered with Alvarez and Marsal (A&M) to improve the care delivery, active treatment, and safety of patients in state-run health care facilities. A&M conducted a comprehensive assessment of each facility and is working with the Healthcare Facilities Division to establish long-term sustainable operations plans, as well as overseeing significant overhauls and reforms of facilities operations. Priority efforts in 2023 include continuing to work towards the recertification of Montana State Hospital and rebalancing the role of state-run health care facilities in the full continuum of care.

### **Healing and Ending Addiction through Recovery and Treatment (HEART) Initiative**

Through Governor Gianforte's HEART Initiative, DPHHS has been able to increase the level of resources focused on mental health and substance use disorder prevention and treatment services. By expanding the continuum of behavioral health services covered in the Medicaid program more Montanans can access needed treatment. DPHHS continues to negotiate additional HEART Initiative features with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) with plans to implement tenancy support and contingency management services in the next year.

### **Medicaid Provider Rate Study and Increases**

The Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Division, under DPHHS's Medicaid and Health Services Practice, is actively working to implement provider rate increases authorized by the 2023 Montana State Legislature. After 18 months of partnering with Guidehouse to study rates across much of the Medicaid program, the focus of DPHHS program officers is now on the many procedural changes necessary to get the rate increases into the hands of Medicaid providers across the state. Rate adequacy is continually expressed as the number one roadblock to enhancing and expanding health care services, particularly those that are community-based, and the funding increases provided for the 2024-2025 biennium are anticipated to go far in re-stabilizing the behavioral health and developmental disabilities provider networks.