

# A Formula for Success:

## Pennsylvania's Behavioral Health Carve-Out in ALLEGHENY COUNTY, 1999 - 2017

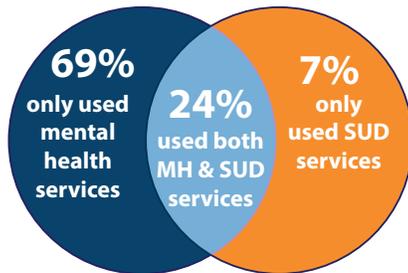
Allegheny County ensures that human service system providers, behavioral health providers, and the behavioral health Medicaid managed care organization use a coordinated approach to the delivery of services and supports that address the individualized and comprehensive needs of each person and/or family. This integrated human service model has yielded quantifiable, improved outcomes for HealthChoices members.



### 1. Allegheny County's HealthChoices behavioral health carve-out provides effective coverage and access to needed substance use disorder and mental health services.

Between 1999 and 2017:

**174,000** of the **549,000** people who enrolled in HealthChoices used at least one behavioral health service



Since the implementation of the carve-out,



mental health (MH) service use increased by almost **300%**



substance use disorder (SUD) service use increased by over **400%**

...while there was an **82%** increase in overall HealthChoices enrollment

### 2. The carve-out ensures that savings from the behavioral health system are reinvested in mental health and/or substance use disorder services.

Between 1999 and 2017:

**\$114 million** in reinvestment funds\* have been used to develop and expand behavioral health services and supports based on provider, County, and other stakeholder input.

Key Projects funded by reinvestment dollars include:

Community and School Based Behavioral Health Teams



Housing and Residential Treatment related to the closure of Mayview State Hospital

Certified Peer Support Specialists

Community Treatment Teams (CTTs) & Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Teams

Comprehensive Crisis Network

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Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)



Allegheny County Peer Support Warmline



Mobile Treatment Services for Youth and Young Adults

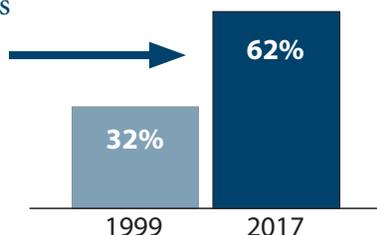
\*Reinvestment funds are the program revenues remaining after all medical claims and other obligations are paid. Allegheny County can retain these funds, up to a certain limit, and use them to reinvest in certain state-approved initiatives.

### 3. A locally-operated carve-out positions the behavioral health system to respond quickly and effectively to emerging challenges.

#### Responding to the Opioid Crisis (2016 to present)

With the rise in opioid-related overdose deaths, Allegheny County has expanded its programs to meet the growing need while also maintaining a positive fiscal outlook.

The rate of SUD services users with a primary diagnosis related to opioid use **nearly doubled** since 1999.



Key initiatives and programs include:

- Allegheny County Workgroup focused on overdose prevention through increased access & administration of Naloxone. The Allegheny County Health Department have distributed over 2,850 Naloxone kits in the community.
- A jointly issued position paper advocating for medication-assisted treatment (MAT), an evidence-based practice.
- Six Centers of Excellence (COEs) serve as health homes for people with opioid use disorder.

#### Responding to the Closure of Mayview State Hospital (2008)

In support of efforts for adults who have serious and persistent mental illness to live in the least restrictive setting, Mayview State Hospital (MSH) closed in December 2008.



**100%** of individuals continued to receive coordinated care through an ACT team or case manager.

In addition to supporting prior residents, new policies diverted **1,278 people** into community-based treatment who would have otherwise been admitted to a state mental hospital.

### 4. HealthChoices has invested in building relationships and infrastructure to support better coordination of people's physical health, behavioral health, and human service needs.

#### Physical/Behavioral Health Integration

- The Connected Care program links members to needed services after assessing their behavioral, medical, and psychosocial needs
- Community Care's Behavioral Health Home Plus (BHHP) project partners with 11 behavioral health providers to serve as behavioral health homes
- Pharmacy initiatives monitor prescribing practices and use of antipsychotics
- Behavioral health providers and primary care facilities, pediatric care offices, and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) partner to imbed physical and behavioral health care for residents. This includes a center that integrates prenatal care, MAT, and SUD treatment for pregnant women with opioid use disorder

#### Human Service Integration

- Housing for people with serious and persistent mental illness
- Care for youth (and their families) involved in multiple systems who have specialized mental health care needs
- Partnership with local schools to better address the mental health care needs of children and families in their area
- Peer supports to assist people in their recovery
- Treatment options for people with co-occurring (both mental health and substance use) disorders
- Oversight of behavioral health treatment for people in the Allegheny County Jail
- Education and training for individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders as well as their families, friends, and providers