

**Pitkin County Behavioral Health Strategic Planning
Partner Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 14th, 2025, 11am – Noon (Virtual)**

This meeting was the continued conversation with partners across Pitkin County to discuss the behavioral health strategic planning process. Approximately 30 people participated online. This document reflects the discussion at a high level. The accompanying slides are [here](#); and the recording is [here](#).

Welcome

Summer Gathercole introduced the meeting, focusing on community navigation and data accountability as key topics for the strategic plan in behavioral health. Yumiko Doherty shared that they would discuss the concept of a community hub to connect individuals with available resources, drawing on successful examples from Larimer County. The aim is to enhance existing services rather than introduce new initiatives, emphasizing coordination and improvement.

Examples of a Community Navigation Model:

The Supported Families, Stronger Community initiative in Larimer County has shifted its model in response to funding challenges, emphasizing support for families with young children. The program employed four navigators with varied backgrounds to enhance community connections and referrals. They implemented a low-barrier referral process, allowing families to self-refer while tracking needs and resources through a mapping system.

Yumiko discussed the potential for a community navigation model in Pitkin County, noting the existing strengths of organizations like Family Connections. She emphasized the need for coordination among navigators rather than centralization.

One of the meeting participants pointed out the lack of cohesion in the referral process for early childhood services, indicating that improvements could strengthen prevention efforts. Yumiko supported this by noting that many organizations are working on similar issues but lack a centralized system to connect them. The discussion also touched on the importance of clear communication and regular updates among partners to facilitate better service delivery.

One of the meeting participants discussed the challenges of attendance at PACT's case coordination meetings, which have been integrated into MHAP. They expressed interest in identifying community members who are not being reached and suggested that MHAP meetings could benefit from a broader communication focus. Another participant emphasized the need for a centralized intake system to alleviate pressure on partners for navigation.

Data Utilization and Accountability in Behavioral Health Strategic Planning

Summer led a discussion on the role of data in shaping the behavioral health strategic plan for Pitkin County. She highlighted the impressive data available and posed questions about its current and potential uses to drive accountability. Participants shared their experiences and expressed a desire for more comprehensive data to inform outreach and decision-making, particularly regarding access to mental health support.

Updates on Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organizations (BHASOs)

Summer announced that the Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organizations (BHASOs) will launch on July 1st, with Rocky Mountain Health Plans as the BHASO for the region. Because RMHP is already the RAE for the region, this transition will allow Rocky to provide care coordination for both Medicaid and non-Medicaid members, though specifics for non-Medicaid services are yet to be determined. Additionally, applications for regional councils will be available from June 1st to August 29th, and a webinar will be held in June for further updates.