

**Pitkin County Behavioral Health Strategic Planning
Partner Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 24th, 2025 ~ Noon – 1pm**

This meeting was the final conversation with partners across Pitkin County to discuss the behavioral health strategic planning process. Approximately 20 people participated online. This document reflects the discussion at a high level. The accompanying slides are [here](#); and the recording is [here](#).

Summer Gathercole welcomed attendees to the final partner meeting for the Pitkin County Behavioral Health Strategic Planning Process, highlighting the significance of their contributions. Yumiko Dougherty shared insights on the final recommendations, noting the extensive stakeholder engagement that informed the plan and the existing strengths within the county's behavioral health framework. Summer also highlighted that the list of key players for each goal in the strategic plan is intended as a starting point, acknowledging that some organizations or programs may have been overlooked. Additionally, Summer mentioned that the strategic plan does not encompass every program due to its length and the complexity of the existing landscape.

Governance Model Overview

The governance model includes three work groups representing frontline staff to facilitate better coordination of ongoing efforts without overburdening participants. An advisory group will review and prioritize recommendations from these work groups, adapting to the changing environment. The Pitkin County Public Health Department will oversee the implementation and ensure that all groups are functioning effectively.

Coordinated Funding in Pitkin County

Summer emphasized the importance of coordinating funding in Pitkin County, referencing multiple funding sources. While there are many investments being made, the current system lacks coordination, leading to overlaps and missed opportunities. The aim is to develop a more structured approach to funding collaboration over the next few years.

Summer emphasized the importance of intentionality in conversations about coordinated funding in Pitkin County. The introduction of a behavioral health champion aims to advocate for behavioral health initiatives and convene funders to discuss their investments and community needs. This initiative seeks to streamline grant applications and reporting formats to reduce burdens on grantees and enhance information sharing.

Resource Navigation and Behavioral Health Continuum Goals

Yumiko emphasized the need for a centralized resource navigation system in Pitkin County to connect individuals with available services and address community needs such as housing instability and access to childcare. The plan includes assessing existing navigation capacities, leveraging successful models, and



enhancing collaboration among providers. Additionally, the discussion highlighted the importance of developing alternatives to inpatient care and evaluating existing resources to strengthen the behavioral health continuum.

Summer outlined several initiatives aimed at improving behavioral health services in Pitkin County, such as incentivizing providers to accept commercial insurance and the implementation of the counseling compact. The discussion emphasized the need for more providers, particularly for children and youth services under the CYMHTA program. Additionally, there are plans to promote educational pathways in behavioral health and expand peer support networks.

Conclusion

The final strategic plan will be completed and shared publicly in the next few weeks. Summer and Yumiko again thanked everyone for their partnership.