

Highlights & Impact

Philadelphia's [Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services](#) (DBHIDS) understands it has an important role to play in improving the overall health and wellness of all Philadelphians by addressing the needs of those in our communities who have a behavioral health challenge and/or intellectual disability. DBHIDS is using a [population health approach](#) to build healthier stronger communities. We invite you to learn more about our system and its unique and innovative approaches at [DBHIDS.org](#).

WE ARE A SINGLE PAYER SYSTEM

We function as a single payer public behavioral health and intellectual disability service system utilizing federal, state, and local dollars including Medicaid. We oversee a network of over 300 providers offering a full continuum of services.

WE GENERATE COSTS SAVINGS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT FOR PHILADELPHIA

Our \$1.12 billion spent annually generates nearly \$4 billion annually for the city economy. According to a [recent analysis](#) that looked at the impact public spending has on behavioral health in Philadelphia, every \$1 spent by DBHIDS results in an additional \$2.50 in economic activity, and 8.1 cents in new annual tax revenue.

WE ARE FOCUSED ON SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

We have a long history of providing innovative and groundbreaking services in Philadelphia. The city has developed a comprehensive, holistic, community-based service delivery system which offers services that promote recovery from mental health and/or addiction challenges, strengthens the resiliency of children, and offers individuals with intellectual disabilities opportunities to exercise choice and self-determination. We are committed to continuously making necessary changes to improve our service systems so that all people can achieve health and wellness in Philadelphia.

WE UTILIZE SCIENCE AND DATA TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES

We have made a large investment in the use of science and data to drive and improve our service delivery system and our public health strategies. We also use data-driven decision-making to guide decisions that lead to better outcomes. For example, we partner with researchers, treatment experts, and providers to promote the delivery of evidence-based practices (EBPs) throughout Philadelphia. In 2013, we established [Evidence-based Practice and Innovation Center](#) (or 'EPIC') to advance system-wide strategies that support the implementation, sustainability, and accessibility of EBPs in Philadelphia.

WE EMBRACE PEER CULTURE, SUPPORT, AND LEADERSHIP

We believe the voice of people with lived experience is critical to a high functioning behavioral health system. [Integrating peers into our system of care](#) is one of the hallmarks of Philadelphia's approach to fundamental change in what we do and how we do it. Our emphasis on peer supports and peer voices continues to be a principal driver, a "transformation engine" that energizes, redefines, and reinforces our approach to behavioral healthcare.

WE SEEK TO DECREASE HEALTH DISPARITIES

We strive to eliminate health disparities experienced by marginalized communities and groups while promoting health and wellness for all. To promote health equity for the diverse population of our city, with particular emphasis on the thriving immigrant communities, we have implemented a number of initiatives to enhance: service access, community engagement and integration, treatment retention, and behavioral health literacy.

Promoting Population Health

WE ARE FOCUSED ON EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION

We provide innovative programs that connect community members with information and services. We know the earlier we can work with people the better the outcomes. For example, we offer free, quick, and anonymous [behavioral health screenings](#) available online or in paper form offered at our community-hosted events. Over the past three years, we've screened over 17,000 individuals – many of whom would not have likely sought out behavioral health services.

Additionally, we offer services and supports to help families with infants and toddlers from birth to age three with developmental delays through our [Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program](#). The program enhances capacity to meet developmental needs of children, and helps prevent the need for more costly interventions in the future.

WE ARE A TRAUMA-INFORMED CITY

We are endeavoring to become the first major trauma-informed city in the country. We are currently engaged in a multifaceted, [trauma transformation effort](#) with many partners across the city, including government agencies, first responders, educators, and others. Our highly collaborative approach combines evidence-based practices and other innovative strategies to raise levels of resilience and heal the effects of trauma.

WE AIM TO BOOST MENTAL HEALTH LITERACY AND REDUCE STIGMA

We are engaged in a variety of initiatives aimed at improving overall mental health literacy of the community, reducing stigma often associated with behavioral health conditions and/or intellectual disabilities, and promoting health activation by partnering with a wide array of community-based organizations. For example, we are a national leader in the promotion of the [Mental Health First Aid initiative](#) – a public education program that teaches community members how to identify, understand, and respond to individuals experiencing behavioral health challenges. Since the program's inception nearly three years ago, we've trained over 15,000 aiders.

WE USE FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES

We utilize financial incentives, including Pay for Performance (P4P) system and alternative payment arrangements to create a more effective and efficient behavioral health care delivery system. We provide feedback directly to providers to enhance performance, to improve patient outcomes, and to drive system improvements. Additionally, beginning in 2017, the community will also have access to provider performance information to help people make more informed decisions.

WE UNDERSTAND THE CRITICAL ROLE OF COMMUNITY INCLUSION, PARTNERSHIPS, AND COLLABORATION

We understand the importance of addressing behavioral health and intellectual disability needs in the context of people's environments – where many of the issues manifest. Connecting services, individuals, and families with the community is no longer considered optional, but is understood as an integral factor in sustaining wellness. This requires developing unique partnerships across various community-based organizations and systems, such as criminal justice, law enforcement, child welfare, and education. For example, we work with [faith and spiritual community](#) leaders on ways to better recognize and address behavioral health conditions and/or intellectual disability needs within their congregation(s).