
Collaborative Bridges is a partnership of healthcare and human service providers designed to build strength in community to tackle the multi-faceted problems of untreated mental illness. We are funded by the Healthcare Transformation Collaborative of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

We do this by closing the gaps, now often fatal, among disjointed islands of service in the acutely underserved Austin community on Chicago's west side. Person-centered and community-based healthcare is the centerpiece of the Collaborative Bridges model. We work to close healthcare gaps by creating continuity of care between hospital and community to put resources closer to those who need it when they need it most—the underserved, the at risk and the chronically mentally ill. We leverage the experience and knowledge of our community and partners to curate a new model based on what we have learned works.



Helping Change the Way Mental Health Services are Delivered

Participating Agencies

Community Counseling Centers of Chicago, in partnership with our Collaborators proposes to build strength in community by constructing Collaborative Bridges across the gaps, now often fatal, among the scattered islands of service in the disadvantaged communities targeted by Illinois' Department of Healthcare and Family Services. Collaborative Bridges would improve behavioral health and other health outcomes and reduce health care costs by creating an unprecedented continuity of care between hospital and community. This concept is designed to be scalable across the City of Chicago and beyond. Under the program proposed here, C4, with three collaborating hospitals and one other community behavioral health organization, would provide proof of concept through a pilot program on the acutely underserved west side of Chicago. In addition to the agencies named here, our program has the endorsement of more than 20 organizations that include social services agencies, hospitals, law enforcement and elected officials.

- Community Counseling Centers of Chicago
- Habilitative Systems, Inc.
- Hartgrove Behavioral Health Systems
- Humboldt Park Health
- The Loretto Hospital

Our model embeds mental healthcare professionals with a variety of credentials in the community. They are integrated with the hospital and other critical access points. We meet people in crisis and connect them to hospital or community care. Our engagement doesn't stop there. Prior to discharge, information is shared with our community-based multi-disciplinary teams to prepare them to assist the client get stabilized on medication and acclimated to rejoining the community. Substance abuse treatment, vocational and occupational support are provided as wrap-around services to ensure clients receive everything they need to live independent, stabilized lives within their communities.