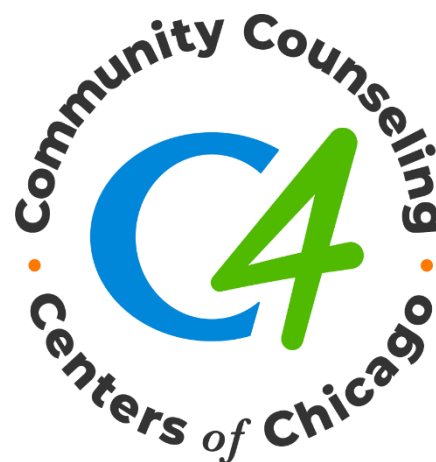

In 2016, planning began between C4 and CountyCare to launch the Behavioral Health – Primary Care Integration Learning Collaborative (BH-PC). Serving as the lead agency, C4 hosts and collaborates with thirty-two organizations, including 20 Federally Qualified Health Centers, 12 Community Mental Health Centers, 2 care management entities, and CountyCare) to study and share learning on systems-level issues and barriers that prevent true integration of behavioral health and primary care.

The Learning Collaborative increases our collective capacity to respond to the behavioral health needs of their patients through improved assessment, referral, linkage and internal resources.

Further, the Learning Collaborative provides a unique opportunity for both front-line providers and administrators of the health & mental health safety net in Cook County to a) have conversations with peers to get individual and organizational support for the already difficult work in an unprecedented crisis; b) gain insights and resources to bring back to their agencies strategies to implement real-time operational improvements in service delivery; and c) collaborative action on systems-level barriers to increase access for their patients and improve operations across the four agency types – FQHC, CMHC, care coordination entity and payor.

Our meeting topics cover the various levels – supporting the individual workers; increasing agency to agency transitions of care; connecting providers to local, state and federal opportunities – which decrease silos and isolation and provide a unique forum for the BH-PC integrated workforce. Through the Learning Collaborative, our member agencies and their staff, have opportunity to improve their knowledge of system level drivers, with goal to strengthen coordinating agencies, operationalizing ways to better work together, and deciding on means for accomplishing key functions of integrated behavioral and primary health.

Now, more than ever before, as city, county, and state stakeholders and policy makers are investing in communities and with populations that have not had equitable access and adequate levels of quality care, a collaborative such of ours is essential to ensuring health equity happens in Cook County in a way that is meaningful to the communities of need.



People recovering from mental illness, and emotional trauma will be able to live, work, and thrive in their communities.