



Southern Nevada Community Health Center: Behavioral Health

Expanding Access to Care:
Implementing Integrated Behavioral
Health in Primary Care



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TEAM

The Behavioral Health (BH) Manager, Tabitha Johnson, is dually licensed in both mental health and substance use and certified in EMDR therapy. She has previously led teams in both non-profit and for-profit settings, as well as in both inpatient and outpatient settings.

BH has two fully licensed mental health therapists who are both trained in EMDR therapy. One, Norma Ramirez-Rodriguez, is bilingual and the other, Taryn Ouma, is also licensed in substance use counseling.

We have a full-time psychiatric nurse practitioner, Elita Pallasigui, who has hospital experience in working with veterans and other vulnerable populations. We also have an existing nurse practitioner, Kikam Yun, who holds dual licensure and he is now serving patients both as a medical nurse practitioner and a psychiatric nurse practitioner at Fremont.

Behavioral Health Team



Tabitha Johnson,
LMFT, LCADC
Behavioral Health
Manager



**Norma Ramirez-
Rodriguez, LCSW**
Licensed Mental Health
Therapist



Kikam Yun
Psychiatric
APRN



Taryn Ouma, LMFT,
LCADC
Licensed Mental Health
Therapist



Elita Pallasigui
Psychiatric APRN

**BH Currently
Offering**
**1:1 Mental
Health Therapy**
**1:1 Substance
Use Counseling**
**Psychiatric
Evaluations**
**Medication
Management**
Group Therapy

What Type of Patients Does BH Accept?

- BH currently treats moderate to mild patients who are established patients of SNCHC
- Moderate to mild patients are patients who do not need acute, inpatient care
- These patients may identify as having a high anxiety or depression screening score
- Patients may be dealing with a new medical diagnosis, such as diabetes or HIV
- The patients may be navigating substance misuse and are not at the level where they need a higher level of care
- For those patients deemed as acute or needing a higher level of care, they are then referred to a local community partner or agency who treats that higher level of care

Patient- Centered Medical Home (PCMH)

- It is the goal of Southern Nevada Community Health Center (SNCHC) to receive the Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) designation, with the help of SNCHC's Medical Director. SNCHC is actively engaged in this process.
- A PCMH is a model of primary care that uses a team-based approach to coordinate patient care. The goal is to provide high-quality, cost-effective care that is culturally appropriate and accessible.
- By receiving the PCMH designation, SNCHC will be able to create and sustain collaboration across all clinics, to include behavioral health.

Integrated Care Delivery Model Vision

- Improved communication across all departments to assist patients with behavioral health needs to be seen in a timely manner
- Coordination between Ryan White program for newly diagnosed HIV patients to receive behavioral health assessment ideally on the same day as meeting with their medical provider
- Daily huddles and pre-visit planning between behavioral health staff and medical staff to ensure that scheduled patients who have a behavioral health need are seen during that day
- BH staff members at Decatur rotate and are present on the clinic floor daily
- BH staff member at Fremont is actively involved in daily integrated care in between scheduled patients

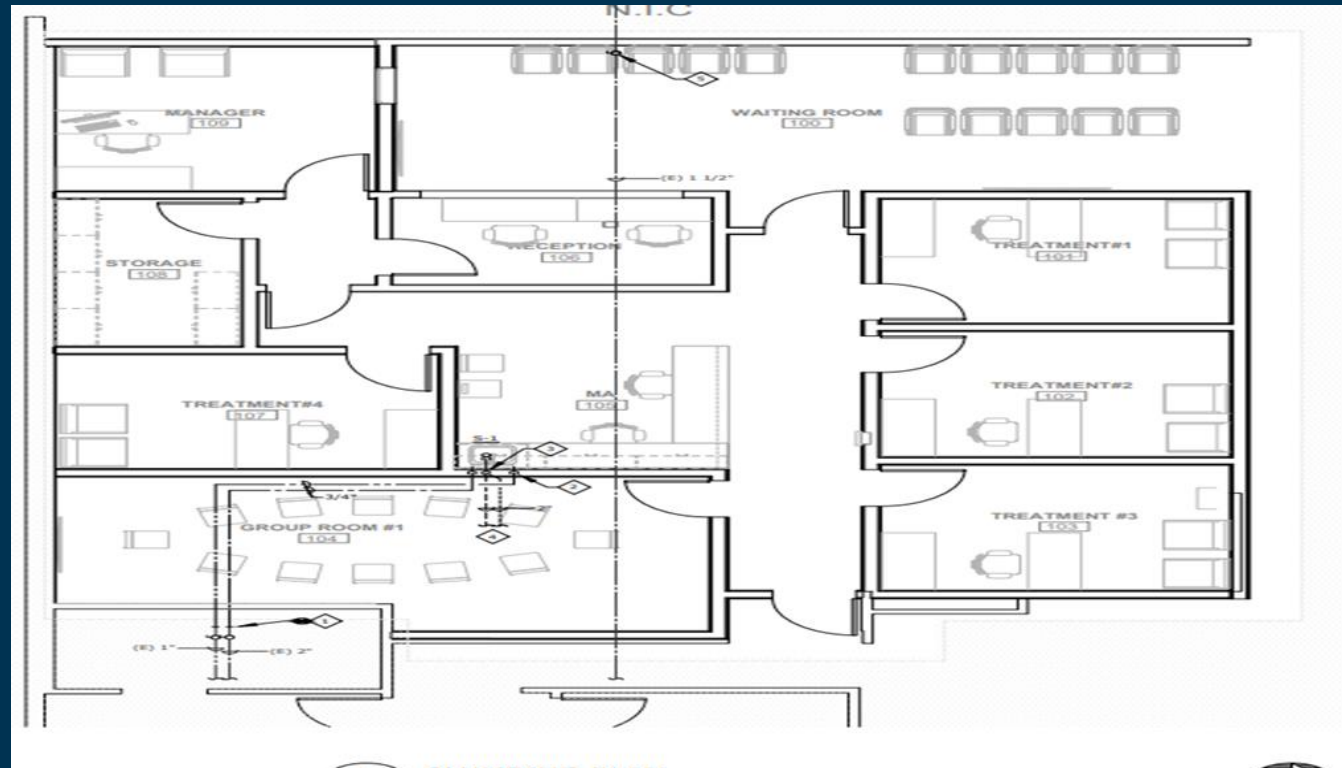
HRSA Technical Assistance

- BH received technical assistance through a consulting agency that is funded through HRSA
- Onsite and virtual training were provided to all pertinent staff
- This technical assistance was brought to both the Behavioral Health team and the medical team in March of 2025, and has bolstered and fostered the culture of integrated care
- These efforts have created a more cohesive experience for both patients and staff

Behavioral Health Space “Annex B”

- This new space consists of 4 therapy rooms and a group room as well as a Manager's office
- The space allows for added services, such as group therapy and health education groups
- BH currently offers group therapy for patients who are newly diagnosed with HIV and future groups will be added such as stress management and other health education oriented topics

Behavioral Floor Plan “Annex B”



Patient Success Story

A patient was needing assistance in obtaining his birth certificate. One of SNCHC's Community Health Workers (CHW), assessed that the patient had other needs. The patient then met with the medical providers and was treated for various infectious diseases. The patient was actively using substances and was open to treatment.

The patient met with the BH team for an assessment. It was deemed that he needed a higher level of care. The CHW was able to find a foster home for the patient's emotional support animal. The patient entered a treatment program and has been able to commit to his recovery. He has since been back to the clinic to meet with his providers and shared that he is doing well and continues to stay clean from substances.

This is a testament to the growing success of integrated care at SNCHC.

Questions?



Thank You

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