



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 27, 2013

CONTACT: Jeanne Oliver
Public Information Officer
303-432-5174
Jeanne@jcmh.org

WHEAT RIDGE – Health Care Homes Without Walls (HCHWOW) is a partnership between Jefferson Center for Mental Health (Jefferson Center), MPCN and Arapahoe House and offers integrated primary care and substance abuse services that are embedded within two of Jefferson Center’s outpatient clinics. A Health Care Coordinator conducts outreach to clients, helps break down any barriers to care for clients and assists in arranging appointments. The target population is adults who are open to Jefferson Center and lack a primary care provider. HCHWOW was designed to mitigate barriers to whole person health care for persons with mental illness. The following stories illustrate the value of integrated care.

A middle-aged female was referred to the Health Care Homes Without Walls integrated health clinic following a hospital stay for pneumonia. Her Jefferson Center case manager reported a trauma history in the consumer’s past related to medical services and believed seeing a medical provider embedded in the mental health center would best serve her needs. The consumer has been seen a few times in the medical clinic. Her case manager has accompanied her to a couple of the appointments to work through issues with her as they arise in communication of her needs and wants to the medical provider. Due to her trauma history it was initially difficult to establish a rapport, but as she continued to come and with the help of her case manager, the consumer has made a connection with the medical provider and continues with needed appointments.. Currently she continues to improve from her bout with pneumonia.

An older male was referred to the Health Care Homes Without Walls integrated health clinic for diabetes and high cholesterol. He had not seen a doctor in a while. He stated he was “just trying to ignore his diabetes”. He established care and received a physical and a diabetic check-up. He started back on his medications for cholesterol and diabetes care. His care was coordinated with his Jefferson Center providers as one of the psychotropic medications can cause high blood sugar. He began taking his medications as prescribed and taking better care of his physical health. He also received emergency dental services through the dental clinic associated with the health clinic. Several months after he started care with the integrated clinic, he was seen for a new problem which subsequently led to the diagnosis of a serious condition requiring immediate care. His care team from Jefferson Center and MCPN continued to be involved, coordinating care and resources.

About Jefferson Center for Mental Health

Celebrating its 55th year, Jefferson Center for Mental Health helps to bring hope for a brighter future to thousands of community members who struggle with mental health challenges. As the community’s nonprofit mental health center, Jefferson Center serves people throughout Jefferson, Gilpin and Clear Creek counties at over 20 locations, as well as schools, nursing homes, senior centers and other community settings. Last year Jefferson Center served more than 19,000 people in need. Center staff has expertise in numerous areas including children and family issues, adults with serious mental illness, suicide prevention, early intervention, juvenile justice, and trauma treatment, as well as offers free wellness classes. For more information about Jefferson Center, visit www.jcmh.org.