

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICES

The Bureau of Community Support Services oversees the Ryan White Part B HIV/AIDS Behavioral Health Education Initiative, which supports community based HIV/AIDS behavioral health education and engagement service programs and an HIV/AIDS behavioral health education training and technical assistance center.

The purpose of the community based HIV/AIDS behavioral health education and engagement service programs is to educate clients about the benefits of engaging in mental health and substance abuse treatment, help address stigma or related anxiety that may impact a client's willingness to engage in, adhere to, and be retained in their HIV medical and behavioral health care and treatment. Programs will provide behavioral health screenings, referrals, and psychoeducational interventions to PLWH/A. These are short term mechanisms for identifying clients and promoting treatment readiness for linkage to and engagement in behavioral health treatment. Behavioral health educators and peer navigators work together to screen patients for behavioral health needs, conduct individual behavioral health education sessions to destigmatize behavioral health issues, encourage engagement into appropriate treatment, and facilitate expedited referrals to licensed behavioral health professionals.

The purpose of the HIV/AIDS behavioral health education training and technical assistance center is to provide HIV/AIDS focused behavioral health education training and technical assistance services that further advance the capacity of the behavioral health education and engagement service programs funded through this initiative. Services are intended to increase the number of staff who are educated and motivated to perform behavioral health education, screening, engagement, and linkage services to PLWH/A with behavioral health needs.