



Program for Substance Use Disorder Treatment Closes Community Reach Center's Intensive Residential Treatment Program Ends August 15

Community Reach Center

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Community Reach Center's intensive residential treatment (IRT) program will close Aug. 15. IRT provides up to 30 days of treatment for individuals needing an intensive residential setting for substance use disorder (SUD), to stabilize their symptoms and engage in on-going treatment. Services include individual and group therapy, case management, medical support, and coordination of care to promote successful transitions into less intensive, less costly outpatient levels of care. People served by Community Reach Center's IRT facility in Thornton also have daily access to Medication Assisted Treatment designed to curb cravings, as well as a wide scope of psychosocial rehabilitation supports. It is the only IRT facility located in Adams County.

The root of the agency's decision is based on low reimbursement rates that do not cover the cost to provide necessary services. At this time, reimbursement for IRT is overseen by Signal Behavioral Health, the state's Managed Services Organization (MSO) responsible for managing and monitoring SUD benefits in Denver-Metro, Northeastern, and Southeastern Colorado.

"I was deeply saddened to notify our staff of the impending closure of IRT two weeks ago," said CEO Rick Doucet. "Funding from Signal Behavioral Health is currently the only option for uninsured or under-insured individuals to access residential treatment for SUD in our region. Medicaid and many private insurance providers don't cover residential SUD treatment at all, and reimbursement from those that do falls well below the basic cost to provide care.

We made it work as long as we could, however inadequate payment for services combined with the financial impact from COVID-19 has simply made the program unsustainable at this time. We hope that our State legislators will press forward and support the Substance Use Benefit for Medicaid in January 2021; which would immediately allow us to revisit this programming."

Between January 2017 and February 2018, Community Reach Center assumed operations of the detox center in Commerce City and the IRT facility in Thornton, both formerly operated by the state's largest SUD provider, Arapahoe House. Community Reach has since relocated its Center for Detox Services to Westminster, adjacent to its Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center, and it remains open to serve the community 24/7. The IRT program has served 352 men and women since opening in 2018.

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The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has identified mental health and substance abuse as one of Colorado’s “10 Winnable Battles.” An analysis commissioned by the Office of Behavioral Health and led by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education was published in February 2017, documenting unmet needs for SUD services across the state. The report notes that “access to SUD treatment is more important than ever: More than 255,000 Coloradans misuse prescription drugs, and deaths involving the use of opioids nearly quadrupled between 2000 and 2011.”

Community Reach Center is working with current clients to complete their IRT stay through Aug. 14 and will transition them to the most appropriate level of care elsewhere as needed.

About Community Reach Center

Community Reach Center is a top-tier non-profit behavioral health and wellness provider established in 1957 that serves people of all ages at 6 outpatient offices and more than 100 community-based sites throughout Adams and Broomfield counties in Colorado. CRC employs more than 500 highly skilled professionals committed to health and wellness, currently serving 22,000 individuals annually. It is one of the first community mental health providers in the U.S. to incorporate pediatric primary care into its care continuum with the purchase of Mountainland Pediatrics in Thornton, Colorado and Broomfield Pediatrics in Broomfield, Colorado. Community Reach operates the first and currently largest school- based therapy program in Colorado. It is the first mental health provider in Colorado to receive accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) – an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services.