



# Pediatric Mental Health Care Access (PMHCA)

Behavioral Health Planning Council    April 15, 2026



Health & Human Services



# PMHCA Program Purpose

**Promote** behavioral health integration in pediatric primary care in new or existing telehealth access programs.

**Provide** training and education to support the treatment of children and adolescents with behavioral disorders.

**Support** telehealth consultation and referral to a local pediatric behavioral health provider, to the extent possible.

**Serve** as a resource for pediatric primary care providers, psychiatrists, mental health professionals, and care coordinators.

# PMHCA Program Goals



## Goal 1:

Increase the capacity of primary care providers to screen, diagnose and treat children for behavioral health disorders in primary care settings.

# PMHCA Community Grant

## **Purpose:**

Competitive grant funding opportunity supporting community-based pediatric behavioral health integration across North Dakota

## **Key Activities:**

- Enhancing collaboration between primary care providers, behavioral health professionals, and schools.
- Expanding access to training, consultation, and evidence-based tools for pediatric behavioral health.
- Promoting early identification and intervention for children and families.
- Reducing barriers to care, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

# PMHCA Program Goals



## Goal 2:

Develop and create capacity for telehealth programs in community-based settings by expanding partnerships within Emergency Departments and Schools.

# Care Coordination Pilot

## Purpose:

Rural pilot implementing structured pediatric behavioral health care coordination

## Key Activities:

- Connects healthcare, schools, behavioral health, and community supports
- Provides family navigation and referral coordination
- Improves communication across systems
- Tests scalable rural model



# Current Efforts to Strengthen Consultation within Primary Care

- Improving Awareness
- Identifying barriers
- Integrating consultation information into existing provider communications
- Promoting consultation alongside screening and early identification efforts
- Supporting targeted outreach to clinics with limited behavioral health access
- Exploring regional champions to increase provider engagement



# Consultation Line

## How To Access Consult Line

**Primary Care Providers can call the toll-free phone number:**

**(888) 522-9654**

Monday – Friday  
8:30 am – 4:30 pm.

Providers are asked a few brief questions to identify the nature of the call and collect critical points about the patient. The collected information are forwarded to a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, who then call the Primary Care Provider back to provide free consultation on the case.

# Thank you!



Shauna Eberhardt, Program Director

[sleberhardt@nd.gov](mailto:sleberhardt@nd.gov), 701-239-7365

Sara Kapp, Program Manager

[skapp@nd.gov](mailto:skapp@nd.gov) , 701-328-4763