



Pediatric Mental Health Care Access (PMHCA)

Behavioral Health Planning Council October 15, 2025



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.

Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program

- ND HHS BHD was awarded a continuation three year HRSA grant to expand tele-behavioral health services for children and youth within the state.
- The PMHCA grant was released by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)
- The PMHCA grant was awarded from 2023-2026
 - Year 1: \$850,000 (20% cost match)
 - Year 2: \$858,000 (20% cost match)
 - Year 3: \$700,000 (20% cost match)

PMHCA contracts

- Family Voices (Consultation line and Care Coordination)
- Central Regional Education Association (School Supports)
- UND Center for Rural Health (ECHO training sessions)
- Behavioral Health Clinics (consultation lines)

Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program

HSRI AIM 8: Continue to expand the use of Telebehavioral health

Goals

- 8.1 Increase the types of services available through tele-behavioral health
- 8.2 Enhance capacity of community providers to provide tele-behavioral health services through education and awareness

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 Program Updates-Community Grants

The PMHCA Community Grants will support integrated approaches to strengthen behavioral health care for youth by:

- 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 Updates

Consultation Line calls and consults:

January: 0

February: 1

March: 4

April: 3

May: 1

June: 0

July: 0

August: 2

September: 1

Total Calls: 12



PMHCA Program Goals



Goal 2:

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

PMHCA Program Updates

Current Activities to Achieve Goal:

- Through this partnership, CREA provides professional development and technical assistance to school staff in areas such as Check and Connect, CHAMPS, trauma-informed practices, relationship building, Safe and Civil Schools, behavioral interventions and supports, and suicide prevention.
- In the 2024–2025 school year, grant funding supported the hiring of a Care Coordinator within Bismarck Public Schools and the purchase of Behavior Advantage, a positive behavior intervention planning system.
- Additionally, the PMHCA program will host six Project ECHO sessions open to all North Dakota school personnel. These sessions will offer free continuing education credits (CEUs) and focus on topics including trauma- and grief-informed care, suicide prevention in schools, and the power of parent engagement.



PMHCA Program Updates Continued

PMHCA will pilot Care Coordination in two rural school districts to provide families with comprehensive behavioral health and community support through:

- Family-centered assessment and goal setting
- Linking families to behavioral health and community resources
- Ongoing communication (with family consent) between Family Voices of North Dakota (FVND) and school staff
- Regular follow-up to promote student stability and family well-being



PMHCA Program Updates Continued

Current Schools receiving funding through PMHCA

Bowman County Elementary School
Center-Stanton Public School
Central Elementary - Tioga
Dickinson - Dickinson Middle
Dickinson - Heart River Elementary School
Dickinson - Prairie Rose Elementary School
Ellendale
Glenburn Public School
Grand Forks - Winship Elementary School
Griggs County
Northern Cass High School
Powers Lake
Underwood Public School
Wilton Public School



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!



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