



Community UPDATE

HEALING is our purpose.
HELP is our promise.
HEALTH is our passion

MHP Provides Mental Health First Aid to 230 Boulder County Deputies

Over a period of two months, Mental Health Partners is providing Mental Health First Aid for Public Safety, an in-depth training that teaches individuals how to respond to situations where they might encounter someone experiencing a mental health crisis, to more than 230 Boulder County Sherriff's Office deputies. During the eight-hour course, participants learn unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems, gain understanding of the importance of early intervention and, most importantly, develop skills to assist individuals appropriately without compromising safety.



"The training provides deputies with an overview of the signs that someone may be experiencing a mental health crisis and provides some basic insight on how to help in the situation," explains Commander Jason Oehlkers, Boulder County Sheriff's Office. "The course also provides first responders with

information on PTSD and the ongoing effects on these responders. The course can be valuable to both new and experienced responders."

"Teaching this course has been incredibly rewarding. The Sherriff's Office staff have been curious and thoughtful, and committed to learning as much as possible about the many mental health topics we cover in the course," added Kevin Braney, Director of Employee Engagement, Safety & Training for Mental Health Partners. "Their sense of compassion and service is evident in each of the courses I have taught. They are without doubt one of the most valuable resources in our community".

Mental Health Partners offers Mental Health First Aid training to individuals, groups and organizations throughout Boulder and Broomfield counties. For more information, please contact MHPLeads@mhpcolorado.org.



The last of the five-part series about mental health sponsored by Mental Health Partners, Boulder Community Health Foundation, Boulder Rotary Club and the Boulder Valley Rotary Club, featured Jeannie Ritter, Former First Lady of Colorado, as the moderator.

Lecture Series on Mental Health Draws Community Interest

Everyone knows someone confronting a mental health issue. That's why Mental Health Partners teamed with the Boulder Community Health Foundation, the Boulder Rotary Club and the Boulder Valley Rotary Club to sponsor a five-part series about mental health earlier this year. More than 850 people registered for the presentations.

Abraham Nussbaum, MD, a board-certified psychiatrist with Denver Health kicked off the series with a presentation about mental health and the evolution of treating it. The second presentation focused on issues of mental illness at the local level, with a panel discussion featuring Susan Motika (Boulder County Public Health) and panelists Valerie Lipetz, MD (Boulder Community Health), Jennifer Leosz (Mental Health Partners), and Jamie Smalley (Boulder Valley School District).


Janine D'Anniballe, Director of Trauma Informed Care for Mental Health Partners, talked about


healing from Emotional Trauma at the third presentation, followed by a panel discussion of addiction as a brain disease that can be treated and from which recovery is possible. Panelists included Ann Noonan (Mental Health Partners), Danny Conroy (CU's Collegiate Recovery Center), Jim Geckler (Harmony Foundation) and Denise Vincioni (Denver Recovery Center).

The final panel, moderated by former First Lady of Colorado Jeannie Ritter, talked about teen use of marijuana (Karen Rice, MD, Mental Health Partners), teens and the use of social media (Natalie Trombly, Mental Health Partners) and teen suicide (Michel Betts Schultz, P.A., Mental Health Partners). Stay tuned for more information about a fall lecture series focusing on teen mental health and challenges.

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PACE Program Demonstrates Collaborative Approach to Helping Clients

People with mental illness or dually diagnosed with substance abuse problems often struggle with activities of daily living, such as remembering and keeping appointments, navigating public transportation, taking medications as prescribed, staying clean and sober, and this can become even more difficult when compounded with additional obligations due to involvement with the criminal justice system.

That's where Partnership for Active Community Engagement (PACE) comes in. Launched in 2000, PACE began as a unique collaboration of the 20th Judicial District, Boulder County Sheriff's Department, Community Justice Services, Colorado Public Defenders, the Chief Judge, and Mental Health Partners. Comprised of therapists, social workers, prescribers, and nurses as well as members of the probation department, PACE provides daily probation supervision and medication monitoring, individual and group therapies, case management, and other services, as needed. Housed at MHP's Ryan Wellness Center since December 2017, PACE is a "one-stop shop" where clients can receive mental health/substance

abuse services and take care of their legal responsibilities at the same time and place.

"The additional support and connection that PACE provides is incredibly important in helping our folks stay out of jail, reducing relapse and increasing their chances for a successful life," said Crystal Fegenbush, PACE therapist. Matt Jaeckel, PACE Program Manager, agrees, "Helping support public safety is just one side of the coin. What makes PACE really special is that we provide a place for people who don't feel safe 'out there' to come here and feel safe."

Clients are referred to PACE primarily through the court system, though some are referred through probation, MHP staff or other sources. Once a referral is received, PACE staff go into the jail or meet candidates in the community to facilitate a screening. All candidates must identify as a Boulder County resident or homeless within Boulder County, have a mental health and/or dual diagnosis that they would like to receive support services to manage, and be eligible for either bond or probation. For more information, contact PACE at 720-562-0523.

