



## Chicago Department of Public Health Mental Health Services 2013 Report

In 2012, as the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) looked to improve the quality of its care, it became clear that important health reforms had to be made to the department's mental health services in order to successfully serve the people of Chicago in tough economic times. To accomplish this, CDPH leadership sat down with community mental health providers and advocacy groups to develop a plan that would leverage other service providers while making needed improvements to CDPH's own system.

The resulting reforms improved access to care, increased capacity of the city's overall mental health system, and expanded partnerships to serve more residents with mental illness, particularly the uninsured. This report further describes these activities and serves as an update to CDPH's *Mental Health Service 2012 Report*.

### Improved Access to Care

CDPH has increased access to mental health services for uninsured and underinsured residents in Chicago through its mental health clinics.

- As of August 2013, CDPH's mental health clinics had 2,440 active clients—an increase of 71 active clients over the 2,369 that were being served immediately after the transition in April 2012.
- CDPH continues to maintain capacity to serve 4,000 residents annually and continues to accept new clients. In fact, CDPH's mental health clinics added nearly 600 new patients in the first three quarters of 2013, and over 1,300 new patients since the transition.
- The number of mental health-related hospitalizations for clients served at City clinics has remained stable since the transition. As of October, 135 hospitalizations have occurred this year, compared to 180 incidents in 2012, 267 in 2011, and 293 in 2010. As another comparison, the rate of hospitalizations has remained stable, with a rate of 4.6% in 2010 and 4.8% thus far for 2013.

### Increased Capacity

Through collaborations with community partners and targeted investments in the city's mental health infrastructure, CDPH has increased the capacity of the city's mental health system.

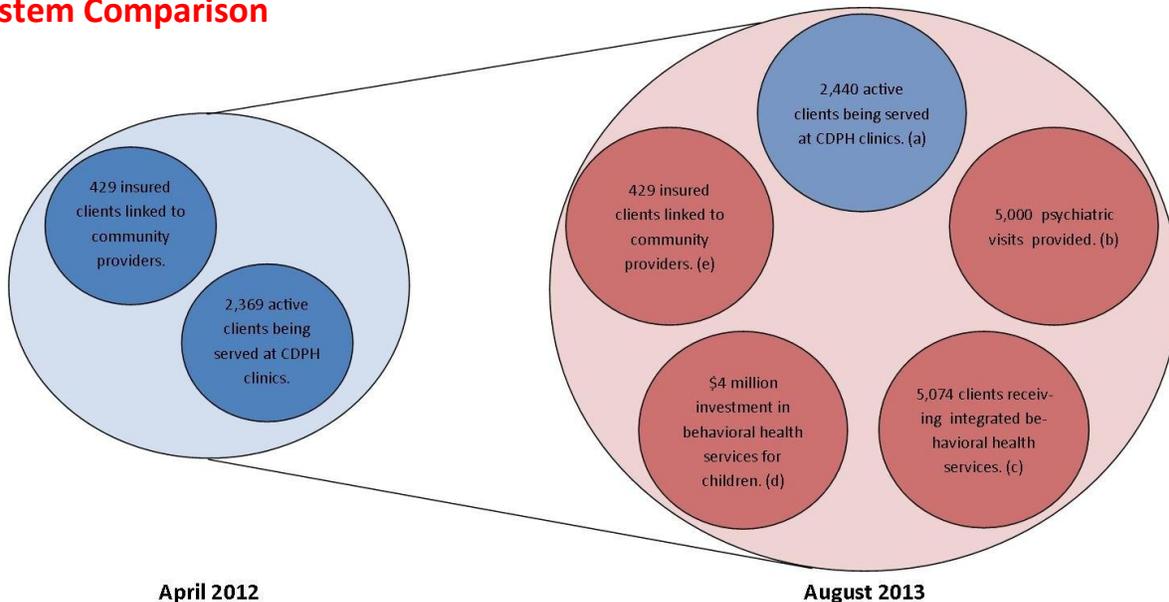
- CDPH expanded psychiatric services by reinvesting \$500,000 from the mental health reform into eight community partners; resulting in more than 5,000 psychiatric visits being completed in the first three quarters of 2013.
- CDPH also received a three-year grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) which provides \$1 million per year to community partners to provide integrated behavioral health, substance abuse, and HIV services to over 5,000 residents.

- CDPH partnered with Human Resources Development Institute (HRDI) and Thresholds to return mental health services to clinics that were closed during the transition. HRDI is currently providing services at the City's Auburn-Gresham location and Thresholds will soon re-open the Woodlawn site now that the lease has been approved by City Council.
- CDPH collaborated with the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation, which recently awarded a \$4 million grant, to provide integrated behavioral health services, including mental health services, to children in need on Chicago's south and west sides.

## Expanded Partnerships

For more than two years, CDPH has convened a multidisciplinary task force to better address the needs of persons with serious mental illness who are homeless and/or involved with the criminal justice system. This task force includes the Cook County Sheriff's Office, Chicago Police Department, Chicago Department of Family and Support Services, community providers, advocacy groups, consumers, and CDPH. Many members of the task force collaborated to create Together4Health, a new care coordination entity to identify highly vulnerable Chicagoans and link them to clinical care, as well as housing, substance abuse treatment, and access to food. Together4Health is funded by the State of Illinois and will begin enrolling clients this December.

## System Comparison



- As of August 2013, CDPH is providing services to 2,440 active clients. This is 71 additional active clients today since the completion of the transition.
- Through CDPH's reinvestment of \$500,000 in its community partners in 2012, 5,000 additional psychiatric visits have been provided to uninsured and underinsured clients.
- Community-based organizations provided over 5,000 clients with integrated behavioral health and substance abuse services as a result of a new \$3 million, 3-year grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
- The City worked closely with Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation to secure a \$4 million grant to provide integrated behavioral health services, including mental health services, to Chicago's children.
- CDPH maintained partnerships with more than 40 community mental health providers to successfully transition 429 insured residents' care; creating more availability for uninsured and underinsured to access services at CDPH clinics.

