



BHF Impacts Access to Behavioral Healthcare for Children

Catholic Charities Bloomington provides most of the Medicaid mental health therapist appointments in our community, particularly for children. They had a severe shortage of available appointments. Through BHF's High Impact Community Health Solutions grant, they were able to dramatically increase their appointment offerings by approximately 1600 appointments a year. The BHF grant cut patient wait times from multiple months to four weeks.

Case Manager

- provides expertise on local resources and connects patients directly with contacts for their needs such as rental assistance and housing, freeing up the front office for patient care and enabled CCB to add two additional shifts at the Riley Physicians Landmark office
- created a phone line where clients who need assistance can leave messages for the case manager beyond office hours
- new position that fills a large void for patients allowing CCB to serve the community more efficiently
- teen raised by deaf parents was connected to two volunteers to teach the teen sign language, enabling the teen to communicate with the parents and improve their relationship

24

individuals provided full case management since October 1

10

calls a week on average for the resource line

Therapist

- accepts Medicaid which expands the community's resource for mental health therapy, particularly since two agencies ceased accepting Medicaid in the last three months
- regularly sees 20 clients primarily ages 6-14 who have challenges with self-regulation and attachment, specifically children who are adopted, are in foster care, or are experiencing separation from their parents
- trained in EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing), Theraplay, and Play Therapy
- worked with an elementary-aged child who has since improved in school and is now able to communicate with adults and peers without meltdown episodes

64

intakes from August 2018 through February 2019

364

sessions with patients from August 2018 through February 2019

***"There is a larger demand for younger children than we realized."
O'Connell Case, LCSW, Clinical Director, Catholic Charities Bloomington***