

Developmental Disabilities Health Center Fact Sheet

WHAT IS DDHC?

Developmental Disabilities Health Center (DDHC) is a collaborative healthcare project offering customized healthcare to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The concept for DDHC was developed in January 2007. The Center provides primary healthcare, health promotion and wellness, and health education and support resources to caregivers, all designed around the needs of individuals with I/DD.

WHY IS IT NEEDED?

There is a shortage of healthcare options and virtually no customized healthcare alternatives for individuals with I/DD. The DDHC is intended and designed to provide fully integrated healthcare tailored to the needs of individuals with I/DD. Such an option simply did not exist in the Pikes Peak Region prior to the establishment of DDHC.

In a 2002 report, Dr. David Satcher, U.S. Surgeon General, noted that compared to other populations, people with developmental disabilities “experience poorer health and more difficulty in finding, getting to, and paying for appropriate health care.” The report goes on to outline six (6) goals and a series of action steps designed to improve the health of individuals with developmental disabilities and to include them in health systems that meet their needs.

- A. Integrate health promotion into community environments of people with developmental disabilities.
- B. Increase knowledge and understanding of health and developmental disabilities, ensuring that knowledge is made practical and easy to use.
- C. Improve the quality of health care for people with developmental disabilities.
- D. Train health care providers in the care of adults and children with developmental disabilities.
- E. Ensure that health care financing produces good health outcomes for adults and children with developmental disabilities.
- F. Increase sources of health care services for adults, adolescents and children with developmental disabilities, ensuring that health care is easily accessible to them.

WHAT MAKES DDHC DIFFERENT?

DDHC is unique because it is one of very few healthcare models in the nation that brings together key health care institutions working together to deliver comprehensive services. The participating entities are:

- **The Resource Exchange (TRE)**, the community centered board—or single entry point for developmental disability services—for El Paso, Park and Teller counties, serving approximately 2500 children and adults with I/DD;
- **Peak Vista Community Health Centers (Peak Vista)**, the federally qualified health center for the region serving more than 50,000 patients annually;
- **HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital (Health South)**, Colorado Springs’ only dedicated rehabilitation hospital, providing in- and out-patient rehab medicine and associated allied health care services.

- **AspenPointe, Inc.**, formerly Pikes Peak Behavioral Health, the region's primary provider of psychiatric and mental health services;
- The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS) **Beth El College of Nursing and Health Sciences** (BEC), among the region's preeminent nursing schools; and,

Discussions are underway to include **Memorial Health System** and **Penrose/St. Francis Health Services**.

Other important components to the DDHC model:

- Use of Peak Vista's electronic medical record (EMR) system
- Potential engagement of both of the region's major hospital systems
- The availability through DDHC for clinical training by BEC nurses-in-training at the undergraduate and graduate levels
- Fully integrated behavioral health supports
- Fully supported and integrated health promotion and wellness
- Care coordination

WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE CENTER?

Primary beneficiaries are **patients** who, for the first time, will have the ability to receive primary care at a clinic that understands and has the resources to meet their special needs.

Caregivers will benefit knowing there is a Center to take the person they are caring for that understands the special needs. They will also have access to training and services that help them provide for the wellness and overall health of the patient.

Hospitals in the community will benefit because the Center will offer a more cost-and service-effective place for patients. This will reduce the number of patients receiving non-emergent care, freeing up resources and reducing the amount of uncompensated care.

Peak Vista and TRE will benefit by having an efficient, centralized place to offer services to their clients and patients in a setting designed to meet the special needs.

The community at large will benefit because publicly supported health care will be delivered cost-effectively. Providing quality health care to an underserved population is an important step in improving the quality of life in this community.

WHO MANAGES DDHC?

DDHC will be partner-managed by TRE, Peak Vista and Health South. A panel of professional advisors is available to provide recommendations within their areas of expertise.

WHERE IS IT?

The Center is located on the fourth floor at **2502 East Pikes Peak Avenue** in Colorado Springs.

WHAT SERVICES WILL BE AVAILABLE?

Primary healthcare will be a DDHC core service, complemented by fully integrated behavioral health services and orchestrated through care coordination. DDHC will also offer:

- Access to allied health care services,

- Pharmacy,
- Radiology, and
- Referral to specialty health care.

In addition, DDHC offers health promotion and wellness resources to patients, as well as health education and health promotion resources to caregivers.

WHAT ARE THE HOURS?

The DDHC will be open from **8:00 am to 5:00 pm**, Monday through Friday.

Appointments are required and can be made by calling **719-632-5700** and speaking to a Peak Vista representative about receiving care at DDHC.

WHO CAN USE THE CENTER?

Initially Medicaid eligible I/DD adults will be able to receive services at DDHC. Medicaid eligible patients often have difficulty finding providers who are willing to both accept Medicaid and treat patients with I/DD. Patients must also be enrolled with Peak Vista, and enrollment can be completed at the time of an appointment.

There are approximately 4,000 Medicaid enrolled adults with I/DD in Teller and El Paso counties alone. DDHC estimates an additional 3,300 eligible patients in contiguous counties and as many as 13,000 Medicaid enrolled I/DD adults in Southern Colorado.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS TO OPEN AND OPERATE DDHC?

The initial investment to set up the Center is approximately \$190,000, which includes \$47,000 in capital expense and \$87,000 for supplies and materials. Peak Vista and TRE are providing most of the initial funding through cash and in-kind contributions. Grants are being sought to offset some of the costs.

Peak Vista has leased the space for the primary Center through the end of 2011.