

## Division of Behavioral Health Services

The Division of Behavioral Health Services (DBHS) provides an integrated system of public mental health care and alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention and treatment services to Arkansas residents. The Division of Behavioral Health Services provides the majority of direct mental health services throughout the State by contracting with 13 community mental health centers (CMHCs) and 2 specialty clinics. DBHS staff are available for consultation and education regarding behavioral health issues.

Each CMHC is required to provide a full array of traditional and specialized, outpatient services with a defined geographical area called a catchment area. These services include: diagnostic evaluation, treatment planning, individual therapy, group therapy, medication management, case management, crisis services, vocational, housing and educational support, transportation, and rehabilitative and day treatment services.

There are 13 catchment areas in which the CMHCs have services sites in 69 of the 75 counties. The CMHCs are the single-point-of-entry (SPOE) to the public mental health system. Entry to the Arkansas State Hospital is only available through the CMHC system. All CMHCs are accredited by either Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) or The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Facilities (TJC). The CMHCs provide services from 129 service sites throughout the State of Arkansas.

Priority populations served through the public mental health system are: individuals found not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect; individuals assessed as potentially violent; forensic populations; persons with serious mental illness; children and adolescents with a serious emotional disturbance; and others with mental health needs. Annually, the public mental health system serves approximately 74,000 individuals.

DBHS manages an application process and compliance standards for two behavioral health provider types that are eligible to bill Medicaid for reimbursable services. The two provider types are (1) the Licensed Mental Health Practitioner (LMHP) and (2) Rehabilitation Services for Persons with Mental Illness (RSPMI) service agencies. Both provider types must complete a DBHS certification process prior to applying for Medicaid provider enrollment.

The Division's Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (OADAP) provides services in the following areas: residential treatment services for adult and adolescent alcohol and drug abusers; outpatient services; specialized women's services for women and women with children, detoxification services, and methadone maintenance treatment.

The substance abuse prevention focus is infrastructure building and capacity development of communities to do prevention. Funding is provided for prevention programs administered at the community level. OADAP is responsible for the oversight of the Drug and Alcohol Safety Educational Program (commonly known as the DWI Program).

The Arkansas State Hospital (ASH) is licensed by the Arkansas Department of Health and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (TJC). ASH operates a total of 234 patient beds in three service areas: General Adult, Forensic, and Adolescent. The General Adult Service is comprised of three 30-bed units for persons 18 years of age and older. All admissions to these units must first be screened by one of the 13 community mental health centers (CMHC's) to assure appropriateness of admission, continuity of care, and treatment within the least restrictive setting. The Forensic Service is comprised of four 20 to 24-bed adult units whose mission is to assess and treat individuals with mental illness who have committed a crime, and to consult with the Court of record. All persons treated on Forensic services are court-ordered for either an evaluation or treatment. The Adolescent Service is comprised of three units: an 18-bed coeducational program for adolescents 13-17 years of age who are in need of acute or residential care; an 18-bed program for adolescent male sexual offenders 13-17 years of age; and a 16-bed program for adolescent males 13-17 years of age who have mental health problems and developmental disabilities. Patients may be referred by local CMHC's, other divisions of the Department of Human Services, private treatment providers, or the juvenile courts. The Arkansas State Hospital is committed to the education of mental health providers and serves as a training site for nursing, medical, social work, and psychology students and trainees.

The Arkansas Health Center, formerly known as the Benton Services Center (BSC), is a 310-bed psychiatric nursing home licensed by the Office of Long-Term Care as a skilled nursing facility, serving the needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities who require specialized services or programs that are not generally available through community nursing facilities. The program emphasizes the provision of services to special-need groups and individuals with cognitive dysfunction. Services are available to all residents of Arkansas, provided individuals meet admission criteria.

The mission of the Medical Director and Research & Training Institute section includes 1) the recruiting and training of highly qualified behavioral health professionals and trainees into the public behavioral health system; 2) improving clinical care by exploring new, innovative, and scientifically-based treatment models for adults with serious mental illness and children and adolescents with serious emotional disturbance; 3) providing expanded clinical research and clinically-based research training opportunities for existing staff in institutional and community-based programs; and 4) promoting the understanding and application of interdisciplinary treatment program sand procedures, and dealing with the challenges facing institutional and community-based behavioral health professionals in Arkansas.