

**City of Portsmouth  
Behavioral Healthcare Services  
Charter For Systems Change To Services For Individuals With  
Co-Occurring Disorders**

**BHS Charter Overview:**

The staff of Behavioral Healthcare Services has recognized that individuals with co-occurring disorders, mental health/substance abuse/, mental health/mental retardation, have lower outcomes due to the multiple clinical domains of improper treatment and continual hospitalizations, which results in the financial cost to the agency being higher. Traditional services do not meet the needs of individuals with co-occurring disorders and there is an over utilization of resources. It is apparent that there are a very large number of our consumers that fall into this category. Recent research has proven that with the proper assessment and services to meet their specific needs, these individuals will be on the road to recovery, healing, empowerment and self-determination.

BHS will come together and while utilizing the principals of Recovery, we will design and implement a process that will improve the outcomes of our co-occurring population.

The Management Team (M-Team) along with staff, the Advisory Board of Directors and concerned citizens will address the challenges, barriers to developing the Recovery Process. BHS M-Team is committed to developing the clinical and administrative initiatives to meet the challenges of this new innovative path of hope.

**The Comprehensive, Continuous, Integrated System of Care Model  
(CCISC) (Dr. Kenneth Minkoff 1998)**

In order to provide more welcoming, recovery-based, accessible, integrated, continuous and comprehensive services to these individuals, Behavioral Healthcare Services will work toward the integration of services to improve outcomes within the context of existing resources. There is a CCISC Model, which is based on the eight clinical consensus best practice principles, which espouse an integrated clinical treatment philosophy that makes sense from the perspective of a mental health, substance abuse, and mental retardation treatment system. It is as follows:

1. Dual Diagnosis is an expectation, not an exception. This expectation has To be included in every aspect of systems planning, program design, clinical procedures, and clinician competency, and incorporated in a welcoming and recovery-based manner into every clinical contact.
2. The core of treatment success in any setting is the availability of empathic, hopeful treatment relationships that provide integrated treatment and

coordination of care during each episode of care, and for the most complex patients, provide continuity of care across multiple treatment episodes.

3. Assignment of responsibility for provision of such relationships can be determined using the four-quadrant national consensus model for system level planning, based on high and low severity of the psychiatric and substance disorder or mental retardation.
4. Within the context of any treatment relationship, case management and care (based on the client's goals, strengths, and level of impairment) must be balanced with empathic detachment/confrontation (based on strengths and availability of contingencies) at each point in time. A comprehensive system of care will have a range of programs that provide this balance in different ways.
5. When mental illnesses and substance disorders co-exist, each disorder should be considered primary, and integrated co-occurring primary treatment is required.
6. Mental illness and substance dependence are both examples of primary, chronic, biological disorders that can be understood using a disease and recovery model. Each disorder has parallel phases of recovery (acute stabilization, engagement and motivational enhancement, active treatment, relapse prevention, and rehabilitation/recovery) and stages of change. Treatment must be matched not only to diagnosis, but also to phase of recovery and stage of change. Appropriately matched interventions may occur at almost any level of care.
7. Consequently, there is no one correct co-occurring disorder program or intervention. For each person, the proper treatment must be individualized according to quadrant, diagnosis, disability, strengths/supports, goals/problems/contingencies, phase of recovery, stage of change, and assessment of level of care. In a CCISC, all programs are co-occurring disorder programs that at least meet minimum criteria of co-occurring disorder capability, but each program has a different "job" that is matched to a specific cohort of patients, using the above model.
8. Similarly, outcomes must be also individualized and based on the person's goals for recovery. The outcomes/goals may include reduction in harm, gaining or maintaining housing and/or employment, movement through stages of change, changes in type, frequency, and amounts of substance use or psychiatric symptoms, improvement in specific disease management skills, or reduction in service utilization.

## **BHS Commitment :**

Using these principles and other recovery models and resources, all BHS staff has to be totally committed to the Recovery Process in order to increase outcomes.

1. The Recovery Process requires participation from all components of BHS with expectation of the needs of appropriately matched cohort of co-occurring disorder consumers and appropriately assessing and meeting the appropriate needs of the consumers.
2. These Processes will be implemented initially with no new funding, within the context of existing treatment operational resources, by maximizing the capacity to provide integrated treatment proactively within each single funding stream, contract and service code.
3. BHS will incorporate utilization of the full range of evidence based on best practices and clinical consensus best practices for individuals with psychiatric and substance disorders, and promote integration of appropriately matched best practice treatments for individuals with co-occurring disorders.
4. BHS will incorporate an integrated treatment philosophy and common languages using the eight principles listed above, and develop specific strategies to implement clinical programs, intense family and group therapy, case management in accordance with the Recovery Model.

## **Scope of Charter:**

Includes person with multiple, complex needs, i.e., persons with MH/MR, MH/SA, as well as individuals with underlying medical conditions.

## **Action Plan:**

### **Phase One (Planning)**

1. Adopt this charter as an official policy statement of the agency with approval of the Advisory Board of Directors. Circulate the approved charter and document to all staff, consumers, families and stakeholders and provide training to all staff regarding the principles of The Recovery Process.
2. Administrators and Supervisors ( M-Team) will go through a strategic planning process and collect the responses to identify agency needs. Planning stages to specifically address the infrastructure—Central Intake,

Reimbursement, Management Information Systems (MIS) and clinical systems change.

3. Assign staff, consumers, families and Board Members to participate in Behavioral Healthcare Services implementation team for integrated system planning and program development activities through focus groups and developing a co-occurring committee of empowered staff.
4. Adopt the goal of achieving co-occurring disorder capability as part of the agency's short and long-term strategic planning and quality improvement processes.
5. Participate in individual program self-survey using the COMPASS (Co-Morbidity Program Audit and Self-Survey for Behavioral Health Services) initially and at twelve-month intervals to evaluate the current status of each program's capacity to provide service to persons with co-occurring disorders. All program and clerical staff will complete the COMPASS.
6. Develop an agency specific action plan outlining measurable changes at the agency level, the program level, the clinical practice level, and the clinician competency level to move forward toward co-occurring disorder capability. Monitor the progress of the action plan at three-month intervals. Participate in system wide training and technical assistance with regard to implementation of the action plan in concert with the Management Team.
7. The priorities for implementation of the model are:
  - a. Inform Stakeholders of our direction and welcome feedback,
  - b. Restructuring of Central Access & Reimbursement,
  - c. Improved identification of co-occurring disorders,
  - d. Improved welcoming, recovery-based access for individuals, Family members, and other agencies,
  - e. Remove unnecessary barriers to appropriate billing, (Reimbursement and (MIS),
  - f. Realign standards, processes, policies and procedures that would support the model,
  - g. Improve coordination of care,
  - h. Improve relationships of clinical and case management staff across disabilities for a common goal of improved outcomes,
  - i. Develop a system to measure specific outcomes.

## **Phase Two: BHS Staff Participates In Team Efforts:**

8. To identify required recovery based attitudes, values, knowledge, and skills for all clinicians regarding co-occurring disorders and adopt the goal of dual diagnosis competency for all staff as part of the agency's long-range plan.
9. To improve identification and treatment planning of individuals, with co-occurring disorders by incorporating agency specific improvements in screening, assessment and case management efforts.
10. To improve customer relations with individuals with co-occurring disorders by adopting welcoming, at entry, recovery-based policies, processes, materials and increased staff competencies in the identified clinical areas.
11. Improve Recovery based access for collaborative community agency referrals of individuals with co-occurring disorders utilizing a single point of entry, which establishes clear policies for fee payment that accommodates individuals with either or both types of disorders at all levels of ability to pay (including court referrals).
12. Participate in system-wide efforts to remove unnecessary barriers to appropriate billing and appropriate MIS data collection.
13. Keep abreast of the COSIG Project and assess its barriers, accomplishments and resources.
14. Assess progress and continual improvement through Executive & Management Team quarterly meetings.

## **PHASE III:**

- **We will update the cultural diversity plan yearly.**
- **All staff are trained in Person Centered Treatment Plans focusing on the SNAP**
- **Reestablishment of the Family and Friends group, SARRA, and continuation of the NAMI support group.**
- **Same Day Access/Best Practice with the use of the ASAM, Motivational Interviewing, exploring trauma in women utilizing evidence best practices.**

- **All licensed staff with a minimum of a CSAC(certified substance abuses counselor)**

Future Goals (To Be Determined) Based on Surveys, Outcomes, Feedback, Strategic Planning and DMHMRSAS Guidelines.

*(Acknowledgement Credits):*

*For Uniformity, This Charter Is Based On Chesapeake Community Services Board's Charter.*