

Community Partnership of Southern Arizona (CPSA) is the state Regional Behavioral Health Authority that since 1995 has administered publicly funded mental health and substance use services for children, adults and their families in Pima County.

In 2005, members of the behavioral health, medical and criminal justice communities and local government recognized the need for expanded and coordinated psychiatric crisis services in fast-growing Pima County. Since that time, increased demand in the public health care system and reductions in the state's behavioral health funding have made the need for a cost-effective, responsive crisis system even more critical.

CPSA and its partners have worked to make its crisis-care system even more responsive, coordinated and comprehensive, with convenient and complementary locations for services.

Crisis services are available to anyone in the community, regardless of income or whether they have insurance.

To aid coordination of services, **individuals having a behavioral health crisis are asked to call the free, 24/7 Community-Wide Crisis Line at (520) 622-6000 or 1-800-796-6762.** Crisis line staff will have the latest information on immediately available services.

- The **new Crisis Response Center (CRC)**, built with voter-approved (2006) Pima County bonds, will open in late summer 2011, as will the nearby Behavioral Health Pavilion operated by UPH Hospital. CPSA, Pima County, UPH Hospital and the University of Arizona College of Medicine have collaborated to create these state-of-the-art facilities, which are located off Ajo Way behind UPH Hospital, on Pima County's Kino campus. Crisis Response Network of Southern Arizona (CRNSA) will operate the CRC for CPSA. In addition to providing recovery-focused crisis services for adults, children and their families when emergency medical care is not needed, the CRC will house a call center that will be the hub for CPSA's crisis system, providing telephone crisis-stabilization services and directing callers to community resources. CRNSA began taking calls for the Community-Wide Crisis Line in January 2011.
- **Southern Arizona Mental Health Center (SAMHC)**, which formerly operated the crisis line, now focuses on the delivery of face-to-face crisis services for walk-ins at 2502 N. Dodge Blvd., and provides expanded Mobile Acute Crisis (MAC) team capacity.
- **Desert Hope, a new substance abuse treatment center**, opened in July 2011 on the north side of Ajo Way across from UPH Hospital and the new CRC. Desert Hope is operated by Compass Behavioral Health Care and serves adults who are under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs, many of them homeless, as well as individuals who need medically supervised detoxification services. Peer staff helps engage individuals in treatment and connect them with community resources. Coordination with local shelters and other organizations serving individuals who are homeless also will be increased. Desert Hope serves mostly individuals involved with law enforcement who otherwise might end up in emergency departments (EDs) or jail.
- CPSA began coordinating **court-ordered evaluation services** for Pima County on Oct. 1, 2010. CPSA's approach is to divert individuals from hospital emergency departments to crisis services as clinically indicated and to reduce the number of

people admitted for court-ordered evaluation when less intense and less restrictive services would better serve the individual's needs.

How the Enhancements Benefit the Community

CPSA expects these changes to make the most of taxpayer dollars by:

- Reducing demand on over-crowded hospital EDs.
- Diverting people in crisis because of mental illness or substance use from more costly services such as jail or detention into treatment.
- Providing secure transfers for law enforcement and other first responders, allowing them to quickly return to the street.

Coordinated, cost-effective behavioral health crisis services in accessible, strategically located facilities will ensure that individuals in Pima County will receive appropriate crisis-stabilization services and be able to return to the community in a timely manner.

CPSA receives funding from the Arizona Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health Services (ADHS/DBHS), Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

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Community Partnership of Southern Arizona (CPSA)

535 N. Wilmot, Suite 201 • Tucson, AZ 85711 • (520) 325-4268 • FAX (520) 318-6935
www.cpsa-rbha.org