



Vision: Denver is the city that promotes health and assures access to integrated medical and behavioral care, and social services for all.

Mission: Achieving Better Health through Collaboration

Annual Report – 2015, First Year of Operations

The Mile High Health Alliance brings together stakeholders from medical care, behavioral health care, public health, and social and community services, to collaboratively address the city's most difficult health challenges and achieve better health for all Denver residents. It was formally established in January 2015 after a year-long planning process, to fulfill an objective from [Denver's 5-year Community Health Improvement Plan](#) to improve access to care in the city.

We are a membership-based organization, with 28 current organizational members (see list below). Denver Health and the Mental Health Center of Denver are sustaining members, while Saint Joseph Hospital is a major contributor. The Alliance has 23 regular organizational members who pay dues based on their organizational size, as well as five ex-officio members. All sustaining and regular organizational members have one seat on the Board of Directors, the principal governing body of the Alliance, regardless of their organizational size. A seven-member Executive Committee was elected by the Board in July 2015 to assist in implementing its strategies and overseeing the work of the Executive Director and the Working Groups of the Alliance.

The Alliance is focusing its long-term efforts on prevention, fostering a culture of wellness in Denver, better coordinating the health care system, and improving the social factors that affect health. Its members have identified four initial priority areas in which Working Groups are actively pursuing city-wide programs:

Working Groups of the Mile High Health Alliance:

- 1. First Access to Care (coverage, health and insurance literacy, and entry into care)**
- 2. Access to Specialty Care for Underserved Denver Residents**
- 3. Better Management of High Utilizers of the Medical Care System**
- 4. Integrated Physical and Behavioral Health Care**

The Alliance has already been instrumental in fostering stronger relationships between diverse stakeholders in Denver around these four priority areas, and is planning for system-level interventions around specialty care access and addressing the needs of high utilizers. Here are some of the major accomplishments of the Alliance in its first year of operations:

Major Achievements of the Mile High Health Alliance in its First Year

- Convening stakeholders around **outreach and enrollment** into health insurance coverage in Denver, contributing to Denver's huge success in **increasing its rate of insured residents**.
- Hosted a large **Outreach and Enrollment Stakeholder Meeting** July 2015, in preparation for the third open enrollment period for Connect for Health Colorado, to develop targeted plans for **outreach to specific segments of the remaining uninsured population** in Denver, including Asian Americans and residents working in professions for which employer-sponsored insurance is generally not offered, such as cosmetologists, massage therapists, and restaurant workers.
- Leading metro-wide efforts to better serve the needs of **high utilizers** of the medical care system.
- Convened a **Caring for High Utilizers Summit** in June 2015, bringing together stakeholders from high utilizer programs and governmental organizations to share information, plan for how to better coordinate programs, and learn how to best serve these populations.
- Completing a **study of Denver's safety-net clinics in the post-ACA environment** to determine changes in patient caseloads, resources, clinic capacity, access to specialty care, and integrated care after the expansion of coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).
- Actively planning for a **Specialty Care Referral Network** to improve access to specialty care for low-income Denver residents, which could be scaled up to serve the Denver metro area and beyond, to close an important gap in access to care. Assisted in these efforts by grants from the **Caring for Colorado Foundation** and the **National Partnership for the Health Care Safety Net**.
- Planning for assisting Denver's safety net clinics to develop and improve **integrated physical and behavioral health care models** in their practices.

Sustaining Members of the Mile High Health Alliance

1 Denver Health and Hospital Authority

2 Mental Health Center of Denver

Major Contributor

3 Saint Joseph Hospital

Regular Organizational Members

4 Arapahoe House

14 Denver Human Services

5 Asian Pacific Development Center

15 Denver Indian Health and Family Services, Inc.

6 CAHEP

16 Denver Medical Society

7 Center for African American Health

17 Denver Public Schools

8 Centura Health

18 Families Forward Resource Center

9 Clinica Tepeyac

19 Focus Points Family Resource Center

10 Colorado Access

20 Inner City Health Center

11 Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

21 Kaiser Permanente

12 CREA Results

22 Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics

13 Denver Environmental Health

23 Servicios de la Raza

Ex-Officio Members

24 ClinicNet

27 Oral Health Colorado

25 CO Academy of Family Physicians

28 Piton Foundation

26 CO Coalition for the Medically Underserved

Please join us in achieving better health in Denver through collaboration!

Our online application form is at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MHHA-Application>.

For more information, contact Dr. Lisa McCann, Advisor to the Alliance, Lisa.McCann@dhha.org.