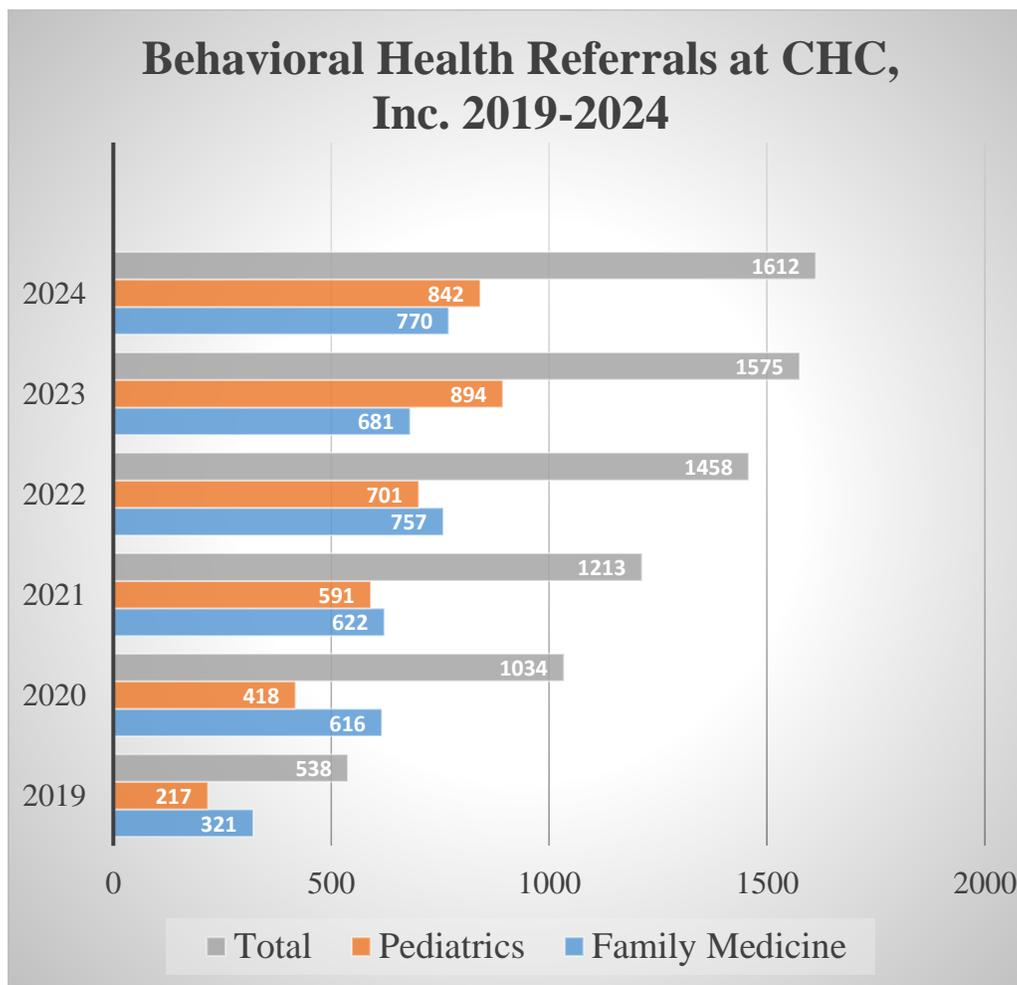


*Behavioral Health Department Report:
January 2025*

Jessica Jacobs, MA, LPCA, CGE
Director of Behavioral Health
Carolina Health Centers, Inc.



Data collected through Epic reporting features through 6/18/2024. Note, due to the EHR transition, 2019 data runs from 7/22/2019-12/31/2019

Further questions? Contact Jessica Jacobs, MA, LPCA, CGE
Director of Behavioral Health
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The Behavioral Health Department (BHD) at Carolina Health Centers (CHC) strives to always deliver high quality care to CHC patients. In order to be responsive to the needs of the communities we serve, the BHD has identified 4 main goals for 2025. They are:

1. Increase access to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnostic evaluations.
2. Offer safe and effective telehealth options.
3. Increase Harm Reduction efforts.
4. Partner effectively and seamlessly with all departments and specialties within CHC.

Goal 1: Through increasing access to ASD diagnostic evaluations, we are meeting a desperate need within our community and service area. Currently, PRISMA Developmental Pediatrics has a waitlist of over 2 years. Without a formal evaluation and valid medical diagnosis, children with ASD are not able to access needed services. Many of the children we serve are in populations that are often not diagnosed in a timely manner. The impact of this delay in service delivery can significantly impact that child over their lifespan. CHC has the capacity to ethically and efficiently meet this need for established patients. The interdisciplinary team involves professionals from Behavioral Health, Pediatric Medical Providers, and Early Childhood Services. This initiative is delivered by supporting each involved professional to work at the top of their professional scope without adding any FTEs.

Goal 2: Telehealth is a wonderful tool to expand and increase access to care. Many of our patients struggle with transportation concerns and often the expense of appointments is a barrier to care. While Telehealth has not been in high demand historically among our BH patients, that is changing. Delivering BH care via telehealth can present safety concerns that are not always present in other disciplines. To address these concerns, all initial BH appointments will be completed in person with a safety conversation happening prior to any virtual care delivery. The BH Coordinator and Revenue Cycle Manager are working together to address any billing concerns that will slow down the rollout of telehealth.

Goal 3: While fatal opioid overdoses decreased in Greenwood County last year, there were still over 15 deaths in that one county alone (OD data only available through August of 2024). Harm Reduction efforts allow patients to live to see another day while meeting them in the place they are, without judgment. Both the Behavioral Health and Infectious Disease staff are working towards reducing harm in our service area through increasing education and access to services such as: medication assisted treatment, safe sex practices, PrEP medications, counseling, and behavioral modifications. In addition to the above list, BHD staff are also engaging in prevention efforts.

Goal 4: The BHD has successfully expanded into several sites within CHC and continues to grow rapidly. This expansion has allowed us to further integrate into more Family Medicine & Pediatric sites and to partner effectively with Early Childhood Services. Many of the families ECS serves go on to engage with the BHD. Through these partnerships and collaborations, we are able to deliver excellent care to more of our patient population through seamless care coordination and internal referrals.

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Current CHC Behavioral Health Department Team:

	Employee	Position	Location	Division	Tenure
1	Jessica Jacobs, MA, LPCA, CGE	Director of Behavioral Health	Admin	Family Medicine	5 years
2	Kimberly Little, MA, LPCS	Behavioral Health Consultant	TCC	Pediatrics	4 Years
3	Ashley Browning, LMSW	Mental Health Counselor	HTP/LLP	Pediatrics	2.5 years
4	Molly Brunson, LPCA	Behavioral Health Consultant	UFP/BC	Family Medicine	1.5 years
5	Victoria Lane, LMSW	Mental Health Counselor	TCC	Pediatrics	1.5 years
6	Jeremy Kimberly, LMSW	Mental Health Counselor	TCC	Pediatrics	9 months
7	Karen Mogab, LMSW	Infectious Disease Behavioral Health Counselor	UFP/PFHC	Family Medicine	10 months
8	Amanda Truewell, RN	Infectious Disease Care Manager	UFP	Family Medicine	17 years (>1 year with BH)
9	AJ Birch, BA	Behavioral Health Coordinator	Admin	Both	2.5 years (>1 year with BH)
10	Katherine Holmes, BA	Infectious Disease Coordinator	UFP	Family Medicine	3 Months
11	Sandra Alvarez	Bilingual Behavioral Health Care Navigator	UFP	Family Medicine	5 years (>1 year with BH)
12	Rebekah Higginbotham	Greenwood County Opioid Response Coordinator	Admin	Family Medicine	2 months
13	Alejandra Perez	Bilingual Infectious Disease Care Navigator	UFP	Family Medicine	3 years (>1 year with BH)
14	Patrick Strong, LPC	Mental Health Counselor	MFFP	Family Medicine	2 months
15	Nate Brant, LISW-CP	Mental Health Counselor	SFP/RSFP	Family Medicine	1 month
16	Shannon Clark, MSW	Mental Health Counselor	CFFP	Family Medicine	Start date 2/10/2025
17	TBD	Behavioral Health Consultant	LC4	Family Medicine	ASAP
18	TBD	Peer Support Specialist	UFP	Family Medicine	Anticipated late 2025

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Current BCMHS Co-located Community Partners:

Clinician:	Location Served:	Current Patient Load:
Corina Samarghitan, LPC	Uptown Family Practice & The Village Family Practice	Data not submitted
Vacant	Lakelands, Pendergrass, Calhoun Falls	Vacant as of 3/19/2024, no update on hiring

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