



**To:** The People of Colorado

**From:** Morgan Medlock, MD, MDiv, MPH  
Commissioner, Behavioral Health Administration

**Date:** September 30, 2022

**RE:** Supporting Person-Centered Behavioral Health Service Delivery

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The mission of the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) is to co-create a people-first behavioral health system that meets the needs of all people in Colorado.

In order to promote a people-first behavioral health system, effective September 30, 2022, BHA Financial and Data Protocols will provide clear Colorado Client Assessment Record (CCAR) and Drug/Alcohol Coordinated Data System (DACODS) completion guidance to allow providers to focus on immediate patient care needs in the initial sessions. This shift allows for a patient-centered experience when starting behavioral health services, rather than initial sessions focused mainly on paperwork.

Behavioral health providers will be required to complete the CCAR and/or DACOD by the sixth encounter or within 90-days of the first encounter, whichever comes first. This change does not apply to services that typically do not incur multiple visits or services that pose a safety risk to patients. Annual updates are still required. The BHA expects that this data reporting timing clarification will promote more accurate data submissions as providers will have a better understanding of the background and needs of their patients prior to submitting their initial data to the BHA. As a reminder, a licensed behavioral health professional must complete required documentation for Medication/Psychiatric Services Only Clients.

The BHA recognizes the critical need for improvement in patient-centered data monitoring and system accountability. Accordingly, we have added specialized data expertise to our leadership team and continue to plan for the unveiling of a more effective data strategy that highlights ways to expand services to advance behavioral health equity. Given the data and performance transformation that is already in process, the BHA will defer making other substantive changes to data reporting at this time.

In partnership,

Morgan Medlock, MD, MDiv, MPH  
Commissioner, Behavioral Health Administration

