

## Behavioral Health Community of Practice (BHCOP)

The BHCOP aims to develop a community mental health center - *Community of Practice* approach to research. This approach will create pathways for high quality treatment assessment and interventions including medication access for the individuals and families that we serve. The BHCOP will create a network of peers from CMHCs, developing a comprehensive set of resources which include research informed diagnostic templates, educational opportunities, shared best practices and access to cutting edge medications which our clients currently are excluded.

Research is essential to achieving breakthroughs in earlier and more accurate diagnoses, more effective treatments, and the prevention of ill health and co-morbidities. Only with research can there be new treatments. Data shows that engaging in research studies and the scientific approach results in improved patient care<sup>1</sup>.

The BHCOP will support the integration of research in CMHCs and increase participation from more diverse and traditionally underrepresented communities. The BHCOP will offer clients the opportunity to learn about and possibly participate in suitable research.

This may involve introducing both research and the research mindset in treatment pathways to improve care which, in turn, can lead to a faster return to everyday life for patients. To kick off this initiative The STARR Coalition CoP team is offering a training program in clinical research operations.

More information on that program will be shared as it becomes available.

### References (1):

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