

Westchester mental health group gets \$4.6M for comprehensive care facility

The Mental Health Association of Westchester and Hudson River Health Care are planning to build a comprehensive health center in White Plains to address whole person care.

The facility will house primary, integrated behavioral, dental and specialty care, among other services, the organizations said. MHA was recently awarded a \$4.6 million grant from the Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program to support the project.

The grant was part of a [sprawling \\$187 million](#) awarded by the program to support 25 projects across the state. The program is administered by the state Department of Health and Dormitory Authority and helps support the objective of the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment program to reduce avoidable hospitalizations by 25% over five years.

The comprehensive care model "helps serve the triple aim that New York has in place in terms of being efficient with health care dollars," said Charlotte Östman, CEO of MHA.

The model and center are focused on being more proactive in the care that is delivered and avoiding higher-cost interventions, such as emergency department visits and hospital admissions and readmissions, Östman said.

For many of MHA's clients, "it's the only point of contact they have with a health care provider," she said. Patients may need follow-up testing for diabetes, for example. But once they leave MHA's doors, the opportunity may be lost.

"We will be able to make a warm hand-off" at the new center, she said, when patients need it. "People will have better health outcomes."

"We are so pleased to be building on our relationship with MHA to collaboratively deliver comprehensive primary care, mental health services and substance-use-disorder treatment services under one roof, furthering the availability of whole-person care in the region and the delivery transformation goals of our state," echoed Anne Kauffman Nolon, CEO of HRHCare, in a statement.

A site for the center has not yet been selected, but the goal is for it to be walkable from public housing, homeless shelters, food pantries and places of worship, the organizations said. It is expected to open in about 18 months.