

H+H launches community-based mental health program

New York City Health + Hospitals' Office of Behavioral Health—in partnership with H+H-sponsored Performing Provider System OneCity Health—this week announced the launch of a program to transition adults with mental health needs from short-term inpatient treatment to an ongoing community-based setting.

OneCity Health is investing more than \$4 million in the Pathway Home program as part of Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment funding to implement new models of care to reduce avoidable hospitalizations and lengths of stay, H+H said. The program was created by Manhattan-based nonprofit Coordinated Behavioral Care.

The investment will fund new services—such as aftercare planning, transition needs assessments, help with food and filling prescriptions, and accompaniment to primary care visits—for H+H mental health patients through a contract with Coordinated Behavioral Care and additional partnerships with community-based organizations.

"Instead of patients having to make the connection, we're able to come together to help the patient, take some of the challenges away, and let them concentrate on healing," said Israel Rocha, CEO of OneCity Health and vice president at H+H.

The goal is to monitor patients, show improvement in clinical outcomes and savings, and expand the program throughout the organization, he said.

Four H+H sites—Coney Island, Harlem, Lincoln and Metropolitan—will work with a Pathway Home team to enroll up to 150 patients during a 15-month period. Participating Coordinated Behavioral Care network organizations include Services for the UnderServed, the Jewish Board, Visiting Nurse Services of New York and Samaritan Daytop Village.

The program focuses on "managing an individual in their community in the most comprehensive and holistic way," said Dr. Jorge Petit, president and CEO of Coordinated Behavioral Care. "I think it really speaks to where health care needs to go," he added.