

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FEBRUARY 2015

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS – I have contracted with Capitol Success Group to help restore 12 IRT beds that we lost at the beginning of the year. We hope to continue operating a 36 bed program. This effort involves Senator Crowder, Representative Vigil, Gil Romero, Community Corrections Coalition and upper management at DOC. The current strategy is to make the case that Southern Colorado needs beds to support the treatment of offenders in our area. We are talking with legislators to get a footnote into the Long Bill. This is a difficult task and we will see if our efforts pay off. In this effort we are training to mitigate the loss of \$300,000

CRISIS CONTRACT - Our crisis efforts started late given the litigation with the outside provider that was not awarded the RFP. In the short time we have been involved with this program we have come to learn that accessing the \$300,000 allocation to our center is proving to be difficult. This is a reimbursement program so we have to provide receipts for all expenses. The easy part is being able to show costs (with attached receipts) for non-personnel expenses. The biggest concern is around double billing and this has hit us hard. Most of the clients we contact through our crisis services are Medicaid and thus are credited against our cap dollars. This is offsetting our staff cost associated with crisis services entirely, which means that we will not be able to draw down approximately 60% of the \$300,000.

This happening in all the mental health centers and all are raising red flags. Aspen Pointe is who we operate under for this contract and I have asked their staff to treat this as an emergency and start negotiating with OBH to find a solution.

WORKFORCE SHORTAGE – We have been working hard to keep our workforce at a level that we can meet all our contract obligations. Our biggest challenge is hiring licensed clinical staff and this concern is compounded with staff leaving to other careers. Even though we have grown in all areas of our contracts it is the master's level clinical staff that we are falling short on. We have concentrated a lot of resources to this effort and need to do more. Consequently, we have created a recruiting position that will be mobile. The idea is to concentrate on recruiting at all the higher education institutions that offer behavioral health degrees in Colorado and New Mexico. This position will also

recruit across the nation through various strategies that are available. We will continue to struggle meeting our contract obligation until we solve our workforce shortage.

KAVELY'S – There is concern by some of the partners that this particular asset is too expensive to operate and has outlived its original purpose. The SyCare board has asked me to contract a commercial appraiser so that the building and current operations can be assessed. The SyCare board members representing our centers, which include Louise, Jerry and I have this same concern. I will keep you posted.

NEW CONSTRUCTION – I made a presentation to the Asset Corp about building a new facility directly to the east of the admin building. The building would address our office shortages, moves the Crisis Living Room and build a multi-purpose room to develop physical rehab services for clients who are seen at our integrated clinic.