



2021 Cities Thrive Coalition Monthly Call Series
Tuesday, October 12, 2021
2:15-3:15pm/Eastern Time

Equity and Access: Reaching Underserved Communities & Treating the Whole Person

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CBHCs) have dramatically increased access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment, expanded states' capacity to address the overdose crisis, and established innovative partnerships with law enforcement, schools and hospitals to improve care, reduce recidivism and prevent hospital readmissions. As the pandemic continues to impact the mental health of our communities, we will look at the CCBHC model's comprehensive approach to care, opportunities to support and expand the model across the country, and the critical role of city and county leaders.

FORMAT: **Zoom (Register to receive meeting link [here](#))**

AGENDA

- **2:15 PM: Welcome and Updates**
 - Dabash Negash, Senior Advisor, NYC First Lady Chirlane McCray
 - Michael Petruzzelli, Director of Federal Policy & Advocacy, National Council
- **2:25 PM: National Council for Mental Wellbeing Presentation and Q&A**
 - Dr. Joe Parks, Medical Director, National Council; Professor, Missouri Institute of Mental Health at the University of Missouri, St. Louis; Psychiatrist, Family Health Center in Columbia, Missouri
- **2:45 PM: Erie County, New York**
 - John Grieco, Assistant Commissioner, Erie County Department of Mental Health
- **2:50 PM: BestSelf Behavioral Health Presentation and Q&A**
 - Kelly Dumas, LCSW, Chief Operating Officer, BestSelf Behavioral Health in Buffalo, New York
- **3:10 PM: Wrap Up**

PROGRAMMING

- **National Council: CCBHC Model, Impact, and Advocacy Opportunities**
 - **Description:** Dr. Joe Parks will provide an introduction to the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic model, the federal policies that initiated the creation and expansion of CCBHCs and the research demonstrating the impact of CCBHCs on increasing access to care. Dr. Parks will also share actionable strategies cities and county officials can employ to advocate for increasing access through CCBHCs.
- **BestSelf Behavioral Health: CCBHC Implementation, Partnership, & Local Impact**
 - **Description:** Kelly Dumas will provide an overview of BestSelf, a certified community behavioral health clinic, and the effective partnerships BestSelf has developed with city and county officials to create a collaborative and wholistic approach to providing behavioral health care to their communities. Kelly will also share the data-informed approaches she initiated at BestSelf to advance racial equity in care.