



Today's Date: August 26, 2026

Release Date: IMMEDIATE

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New Coordinated Specialty Care Program in Central Virginia Earns \$2.3M in Support From Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Central VA – The first Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) program in Central Virginia has been awarded a four-year \$2,378,000 grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to expand Horizon Behavioral Health's Early Psychosis Prevention and Recovery Program. The program is designed to be a vital intervention for young adults, ages 15–30, who experience symptoms of psychosis for the first time. Evidence supports that early intervention programs like this one can significantly improve long-term health outcomes here in Central Virginia, helping young adults maintain engagement in school, employment, and community life.

Horizon was one of only 12 organizations across the United States to receive this award from SAMHSA, making this grant extremely competitive and demonstrating Horizon's national excellence in clinical programming and program evaluation.

The new Coordinated Specialty Care program equips a multidisciplinary treatment team with the tools and training to effectively integrate psychotherapy, psychiatric care, care coordination, education and employment services, peer recovery support, and family engagement, all into one coordinated treatment approach.

"This is an important opportunity to build a specialized First Episode Psychosis program focused on identifying symptoms early and providing timely, coordinated care," said Sherri Walker-Thacker, Senior Clinical Director, Horizon Behavioral Health. "Early intervention can change the trajectory of a young person's life—reducing the impact of psychosis, supporting recovery, and helping individuals remain connected to their families, education, employment, and communities."

The program is expected to serve approximately 25-30 individuals each year, residing in the counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Campbell, and the City of Lynchburg.

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Horizon Behavioral Health has been the primary public behavioral healthcare provider in Central Virginia for more than 58 years. In the last year, Horizon provided services to over 12,000 adults and children, addressing problems with mental health, substance use, and intellectual disabilities. Horizon is accredited by CARF International. This represents the highest level of accreditation that can be given to a behavioral health organization. To learn more about Horizon, please visit HorizonBH.org.