

Advancing Community-Led Behavioral Health Solutions in Middlesex County

Through the Middlesex County Behavioral Health Partnership, CHCS brings together cross-sector partners to strengthen coordination and improve behavioral health supports for county residents.

Systemwide change in behavioral health care is possible when communities invest in learning and collaboration. In Middlesex County, New Jersey, that investment is reshaping how partners work together to support residents with behavioral health needs.

Following a [2023 Behavioral Health Roundtable](#) coordinated by the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) and attended by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and other state and county leaders, local momentum grew around improving behavioral health supports. This led to the creation of the [Middlesex County Behavioral Health Partnership](#), spearheaded by the county's Department of Community Services with strategic guidance from CHCS.

Under the Partnership, and in collaboration with county officials, CHCS convenes virtual and in-person sessions that bring together more than 60 cross-sector participants from schools, the justice system, health care, community organizations, and more. These monthly convenings foster information sharing, problem-solving, and relationship-building across the lifespan of behavioral health needs. Past topics include harm reduction, services for youth and families, justice-involved needs, maternal mental health services, aging population needs, and crisis response for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Partnership has already sparked tangible improvements, including a pilot expanding low-barrier access to buprenorphine. Participants consistently report gaining knowledge, discovering new resources, and strengthening their ability to serve community members. By centering lived experience, elevating local expertise, and creating space for cross-sector collaboration, CHCS is helping Middlesex County build a more responsive, informed, and connected behavioral health system.

AT-A-GLANCE

WHO: Middlesex County Department of Community Services, Office of Human Services

WHAT: Convened cross-sector stakeholders and provided strategic guidance to establish and support the Middlesex County Behavioral Health Partnership

RESULTS: Built a sustained collaboration of 60+ community partners and strengthened coordination across systems, resulting in new initiatives to improve behavioral health services, including a pilot expanding access to buprenorphine.

Partnering with CHCS

This Partner Snapshot highlights how CHCS helps organizations move policy and program priorities from planning to sustainable implementation through tailored, hands-on support. To learn more about *CHCS Implementation & Advisory Services*, visit www.chcs.org/services.

Interested in tailored support? Connect with CHCS to learn how our team can support your organization's priorities. Contact us: www.chcs.org/partner.