



# Magellan celebrates two decades of PA HealthChoices

*A message from Diane Marciano, VP, General Manager, Lehigh Valley Care Management Center, and James Leonard, VP, General Manager, Newtown Care Management Center*

In 1997, the Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (PA OMHSAS) first implemented the HealthChoices Behavioral Health program to manage the mental health and substance abuse services for Medicaid members. The purpose of this new model was to manage behavioral health costs for the commonwealth, create more access for Medicaid members in need of behavioral health services, and improve the quality of behavioral health services.



Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania is proud to have been selected as a contracted Behavioral Health Managed Care Organization (BHMCO) from the inception of this first-in-class public policy program. Our first contract went live in 1997 with the Delaware County Office of Behavioral Health, and in the following few years our contracts started with Bucks County, Montgomery County, Lehigh County and Northampton County.

## **The benefits of the behavioral health program**

This program creates an exclusive relationship between county government and a privately managed BHMCO to promote recovery and resiliency principles for all of the Medicaid members of each county. Vital to this relationship is the accountability that is required of the county, the BHMCO, the providers and the state agencies. At Magellan, we pride ourselves on creating innovative solutions to behavioral health challenges in collaboration with the administrative teams for each county. For our members and the communities we serve, these innovations of care can lead to reduced inpatient admissions, shorter lengths of stay when inpatient care is required and reinvestment funds for the counties through our historically sound fiscal management.

### **Reinvestment funds have had a positive impact**

In collaboration with the counties with which we work, we have generated cost savings for the communities we serve, as well as community programs, through reinvestment funds. This has helped to increase access to care, improve service use rates, expand the continuum of services in alignment with evidence-based models, and maximize clinical appropriateness and quality services. These reinvested funds are empowering residents to live healthy, vibrant lives. Examples of innovative and evidence-based care programs we have developed with the counties through community reinvestment include:

- Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams
- Certified Peer Support/Certified Recovery Specialists
- Dual Diagnosis Treatment Team (DDTT)
- Transition to Independence Process (TIP)
- Wellness Recovery Teams

### **We look forward to the future**

Our team's primary focus will always be to provide support and assistance for our Medicaid members who face critically important challenges in their lives. The HealthChoices Behavioral Health program is a proven and stable solution to manage costs and expand access for members as it continues to improve quality.