

Consumer and Family Run Services



BHI is very proud of these innovative and empowering programs. Consumer and Family Run services give people who have experienced the challenge of mental illness first hand to share their experiences, talents and insights with others in the same situation. Consumer and family participation in the areas listed below varies by individual and by program. Some persons volunteer occasionally on a special project that interests them, others hold full time paid positions allowing them to establish meaningful, life long careers in the mental health arena.

Consumer Run Drop-in and Empowerment Centers

Our drop-in and empowerment centers are the center of our consumer-run activities. These centers offer services that help consumers meet basic needs, like lunch programs and food banks. More importantly, they provide a place where consumers can get together, have fun, get information, learn about what is happening in the mental health community, overcome stigma, get empowered and be part of a genuine community. Come visit us and see what it's all about!

- Community Connections in Aurora at 10004 E. Colfax Ave. Call us at 303-739-9631
 - Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
 - [Click here for more information](#)
- Rainbow Center in Thornton at 2140 East 88th Avenue. Call us at 303-287-2902.
 - Hours: Monday – Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 - Friday, “Young Adult Program”, 12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m.
 - [Click here for more information](#)
- Friends Helping Friends in Littleton at 6509 S. Santa Fe Drive. Call 303-797-9343

Peer Specialist Program

The Peer Specialist Program trains and hires persons with personal experience with mental illness as peer counselors. These individuals are placed in different setting throughout BHI, such as residential programs and drop-in centers, to provide support and guidance to others. Contact us at (303) 739-2557 to locate a Peer Specialist near you or to find out when we will be holding our next training. [Click here for more information.](#)

Project Bloom - Project Bloom is a 6 year project that looks for ways to improve the way young children (ages 0-5) with severe emotional disorders and their families receive and experience services. In the BHI area, project Bloom is centered in the City of Aurora. Family members of young children and interested parents of older children are welcomed as partners in Project Bloom and have opportunities to participate at several different levels of the organization, including some paid and volunteer positions. Opportunities exist for youth ages 12-21 to work together to fight stigma and participate in other exciting activities. A family run support group is available as well. Please call **(303) 617-2466** or go to <http://www.projectbloom.org/about.htm> for more information.

Regional Recreation Committee

This subcommittee of the BHI Consumer Advisory Board plans recreational events for consumers and their family members in the BHI area. Recreational events include cross-disability dances, an annual picnic and the BHI awards banquet. If you like to help others to have fun this is the group for you. Meeting times vary depending on event schedule. If you are interested in joining us, please call (720) 490-4404.

S.T.A.R Reach Clubhouse

Based on the Fountain House model, S.T.A.R. Reach works to improve the quality of life for adults with serious mental illness in Arapahoe and Douglas Counties by facilitating meaningful work and relationships in an environment filled with social, educational, recreational and vocational opportunities. Call us at 303-798-0128.

[Click here for more information.](#)