



Addressing the Barriers to a Community’s Behavioral Health

Eagle Valley Behavioral Health

August 2018 - Present

Situation

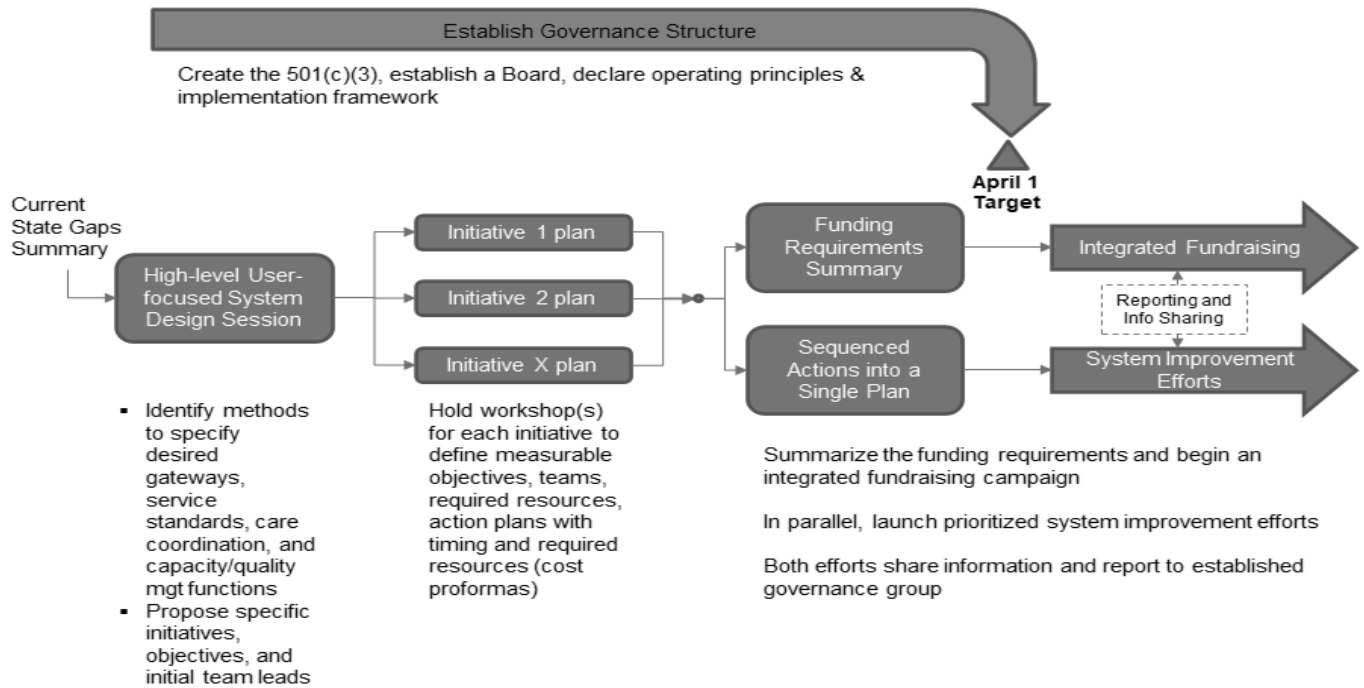
Beginning in 2018, at the request of the Eagle County Public Health Department in Colorado, GPS convened a broad group of stakeholders to assess and evaluate the range, accessibility, and integration of behavioral health services in the Eagle River Valley. The behavioral health system struggled to support community needs, evidenced by a climbing suicide rate, increased utilization of emergency services for BH-related needs, and expressed resident dissatisfaction around capacity, costs & payment systems, and efficacy.

Approach

GPS convened leaders from the public sector, the provider community, and concerned non-profits to strengthen and innovate behavioral health systems for Eagle County’s residents and visitors. Over four months, GPS mapped the behavioral health system, including providers, performance measures, and gaps, and acknowledged 19 gaps affecting the community.

The GPS team developed a “continuum of care” featuring four distinct segments and system enablers, promoting integrity and continuous improvement. Informed by research, in-depth interviews, and collaborative workgroups, GPS developed 10 initiatives to drive forward key priorities and crafted the next steps for each.

Transformation Planning Roadmap





This work was foundational in creating a unique center of excellence for the Valley. Eagle Valley Behavioral Health, a 501(c)(3), was formed in 2019 and is dedicated to leading community collaboration and partnerships to transform the Valley's behavioral health landscape. EVBH also serves as a centralized agency to pursue grants, philanthropic contributions, in-kind partnerships, and other funding sources that enable partner agencies to focus on their strengths. GPS continues to work with this center of excellence, advising on various services, including overall strategy, long-term funding, Board and community partnerships, and collaborative transformation.

Results

EVBH, while still a young organization, is already receiving recognition from Colorado Governor Jared Polis for its transformational impact on the community. GPS has supported this effort in several ways:

- Developed a 100-page, 10-year business plan (strategy);
- Created pro-forma business plan to identify sources of funding (e.g., reimbursements, grants, other public sources) and direct funding across the 10 initiatives, specifying cashflows for each initiative and
- Designed methods to promote Board of Directors funding approval.

Early wins include:

- Within the first year of operation, working with partners to confirm the commitment of nearly 50% of 10-year fundraising goals;
- Reduced transports by 70% through an innovative crisis co-responder model, partnering with law enforcement and EMS to stabilize people in their homes and
- Increase county provider count by nearly 40%, increasing capacity and reducing wait times for those seeking services.