

# Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska

Legislative Report  
FY 2020 & 2021



# BHECN

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
EDUCATION CENTER  
OF NEBRASKA



**Marley Doyle, MD**  
**Director of BHECN**

The Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN) is in our 12th year serving the state, and our mission remains the same – improve access to behavioral health in Nebraska by developing a skilled and passionate workforce.

We invite you to read the following pages of BHECN’s biennial legislative report, summarizing our work addressing behavioral health workforce shortages in Nebraska. The online version is available at this link: [bit.ly/BHECN\\_LEGReport\\_FY20\\_21](https://bit.ly/BHECN_LEGReport_FY20_21)

Additional information on each region of Nebraska is available in Regional Statistical Briefs, which provide geographic distribution and demographic characteristics of behavioral health providers by region in Nebraska. The statistical reports are on our website: [unmc.edu/bhecn/workforce/workforce-reports](https://unmc.edu/bhecn/workforce/workforce-reports)

We are pleased to report progress in many areas:

- From 2010 to 2020, the supply of behavioral health providers has increased by 32 percent among psychiatric prescribers and 39 percent among psychologists and mental health therapists ([pages 9-10](#))
- More than 5,189 students in Nebraska have learned about careers in behavioral health since 2010. ([page 13](#))
- BHECN has strengthened partnerships with the 18 academic institutions providing graduate and doctoral behavioral health education in the state to collaborate on training and workforce retention. ([page 16](#))
- In 2017, Legislative bill LB242 started providing general funds to BHECN and the University of Nebraska partners to collaborate with the Department of Correctional Services and the Department of Health and Human Services Regional Centers to develop and offer training programs for students in a correctional setting. To date, 66 students have participated in this program. ([page 23](#))
- In 2020, The United Healthcare Foundation awarded BHECN with The United Healthcare Empowering Health grant. The grant provides additional funding support for BHECN’s Ambassador and Nebraska Behavioral Health Education Partnership (NeBHEP) programs. ([page 25](#))
- BHECN provided professional training for more than 4,914 individuals during fiscal years 2020-2021, a 49% increase over 2018-2019. The coronavirus pandemic swiftly shut down our plans for in-person conferences and training at the start of 2020. BHECN was able to adapt quickly and offer training virtually. ([page 27-28](#))
- The first BHECN Behavioral Health Policy Forum was held virtually on December 9, 2020. The forum gave Nebraska policymakers and stakeholders across the state an opportunity to hear about the national, state, and local impact of the 2020 elections and the coronavirus pandemic on behavioral health policy. ([page 23](#))
- BHECN Kearney developed and implemented a Behavioral Health Minor for students at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. There are currently 80 students enrolled in the program. ([page 16](#))
- We continued promoting the behavioral health jobs website, NEBHjobs.com – The website has seen 327,000 page views since its inception. ([page 29](#))

Our work would not be possible without the support and collaboration of our partners, and we are truly privileged to work with all of you. If you have questions or ideas to share, please contact BHECN at 402.552.7697 or [bhecn@unmc.edu](mailto:bhecn@unmc.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marley Doyle, MD".

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To view videos about BHECN scan the qr code or visit <https://www.unmc.edu/bhecn/about/index.html>



To view the Legislative Report PDF, scan the qr code or visit [unmc.edu/bhecn/workforce/legislative-reports.html](https://www.unmc.edu/bhecn/workforce/legislative-reports.html)

# Executive Summary

## Behavioral Health Need in Nebraska

Nearly 1 in 5 Nebraskans have a mental illness.<sup>1</sup>

88 of 93 counties in NE are designated Mental Health Professions Shortage Areas.<sup>2</sup>

29 counties have no behavioral health provider of any kind.<sup>3</sup>

### Workforce Overview

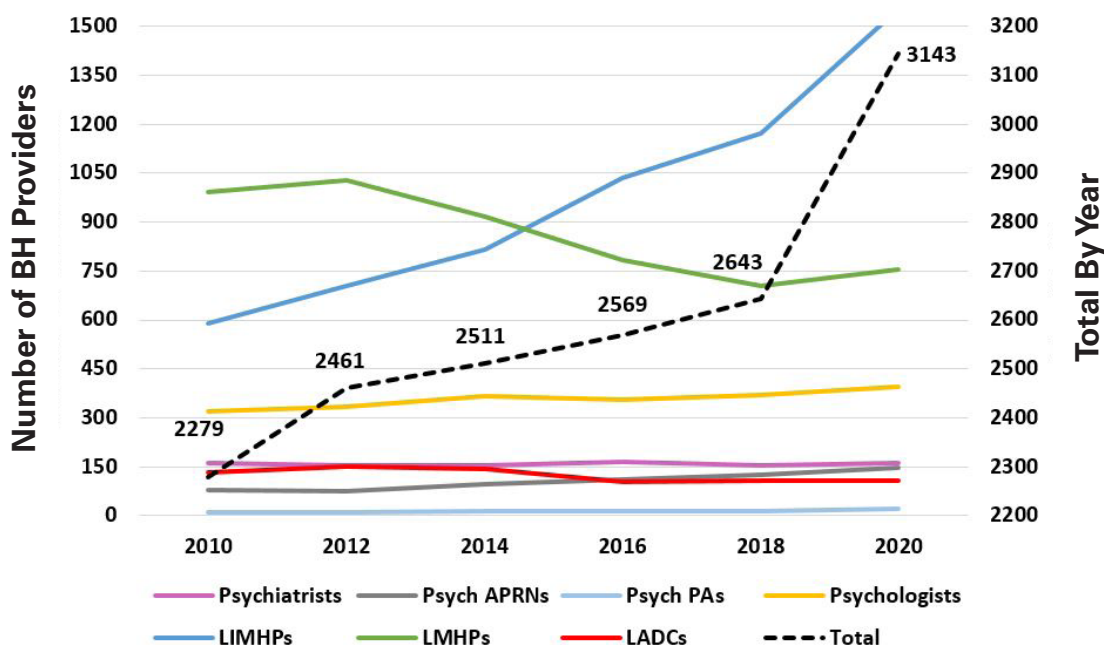
Since 2010, Nebraska's behavioral health (BH) workforce has seen positive growth. As shown in the chart below, between 2010 and 2020, the total number of BH providers increased from 2279 to 3143. The increase in Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioners (LIMHPs) is partly due to migration from Licensed Mental Health Practitioners (LMHPs) to LIMHP. While the number of individuals who only hold a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor certification (LADCs) slightly declined over time, many BH providers hold multiple licenses (e.g., LADC and LIMHP) that are not captured in this chart.

As shown in maps on [Page 9 and 10](#), rural communities continue to experience a shortage of BH providers, especially prescribers, calling for continuing efforts to develop the BH workforce in Nebraska.

Nebraska's BH workforce is aging – with half over age 50. More diverse providers are in demand, especially those fluent in Spanish and other languages.

The need for BH providers will always exist in Nebraska. BHECN is focusing on innovative ways to increase the BH workforce and address the state's workforce needs. ([See page 7 for more workforce data.](#))

Nebraska BH Providers Trends



\*The significant increase of LIMHPs and decrease of LMHPs is due to the natural progression of LMHPs completing supervised hours to become independently licensed LIMHPs.

## Engage & Recruit

BHECN's Ambassador Program aims to connect students with resources and mentors, especially in rural and urban underserved areas, to engage interest in BH professions. The idea is to encourage students to stay in Nebraska and serve in their communities. (See page 13 for details.)

BHECN connected with more than 5,189 NE students through the Ambassador program.

Thirteen of the twenty psychiatry residents stayed in Nebraska in 2020 and 2021.

Of the seven psychiatry residents who left the state, three left for fellowships.

## Prepare & Train

Through multiple partnerships, legislative support, and external funding, BHECN is connecting students to training and mentoring opportunities with an emphasis on providing interprofessional training in rural and underserved areas of the state. (See page 18 for details.)

139 student trainees completed BHECN supported internships and clinical rotations in FY 2020-2021.

1,439 students completed interprofessional training in rural and urban underserved sites.

40 Integrated BH Clinics have been established in NE with 25 sites in rural counties.

## Retain & Support

BHECN supports the BH workforce through professional development, training opportunities, and resources to connect with colleagues and promote networking and retention. (See page 27 for details.)

4,914 individuals participated in BHECN-provided live and online training programs.

BHECN hosted numerous training opportunities on topics such as *Responding to Behavioral Health Challenges During a Pandemic* and *Establishing a Rural Behavioral Health Practice*.

Free BH Jobs website NEBHjobs.com has received more than 327,000 hits.

# Introduction

## Who is BHECN?

The Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN), pronounced “beacon,” was established in 2009 by a legislative bill to address the shortage of BH professionals in rural and underserved areas of the state. It is a unique partnership among the state legislature, academic institutions, and community partners to create a statewide workforce solution for the shortage of licensed BH professionals.



View our video: [vimeo.com/bhecn/aboutbhecn2019](https://vimeo.com/bhecn/aboutbhecn2019)



## BHECN's Mission:

BHECN is dedicated to improving access to BH care across the state of Nebraska by developing a skilled and passionate workforce.

BHECN is located on the campus of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and has two additional satellite locations; BHECN Kearney at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and BHECN Panhandle at Chadron State College.

Many states across the U.S. experience the same challenges as Nebraska, and BHECN has established national recognition as a champion for BH workforce development. Industry recognition has included:

HOSA Nebraska Career Education, Distinguished Partner Award 2021 (Dr. Christina Chasek & Ann Kraft)

Outstanding Educator of the Year 2020 , Munroe-Meyer Institute (Dr. Allison Grennan)

JG Elliott Award, University of Nebraska Medical Center (Dr. Catherine Jones-Hazledine)

2018 Professional of the Year, Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations (NABHO) (Dr. Joseph Evans)

The University of Nebraska at Kearney, College of Education Teaching Award (Dr. Christina Chasek)

The Innovation, Development and Engagement Award (IDEA) Award, University of Nebraska (Dr. Joseph Evans)



Innovation Award, Annapolis Coalition on the Mental Health Workforce (BHECN)

New Frontiers Researcher, Research and Creative Activity at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Office of Graduate Studies and Research, Vol. IX (Dr. Christina Chasek)

Outstanding Rural Practitioner Award, Nebraska Rural Health Association (Dr. Catherine Jones-Hazledine)

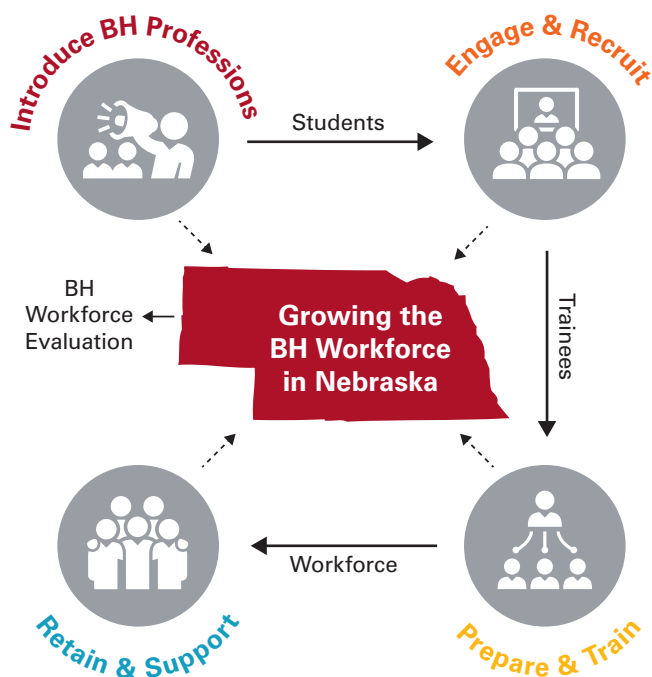
College of Education Research Award, The University of Nebraska at Kearney (Dr. Christina Chasek)

Director's Recovery Recognition Award from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Behavioral Health (BHECN)

Champions of Training and Workforce Development, National Council for Behavioral Health 2016 Awards of Excellence (BHECN)



BHECN director Dr. Marley Doyle presents at Creighton University for their student mental health event on Friday, January 31, 2020. Her presentation titled #MentalHealthMatters covered a range of BH topics including anxiety, depression, suicide and many others. Creighton students volunteered to participate in two different mental health scenarios during the presentation.



### Behavioral Health Workforce Pipeline Model

BHECN’s BH pipeline model illustrates how BHECN introduces and engages with students teaching them about the various BH careers.

BHECN encourages preparation and training (including rural rotations) and continues to support and retain the BH professionals by offering ongoing training and continuing education opportunities.

# Workforce Overview

## A look at the behavioral health workforce in Nebraska

Nebraska experiences shortages in BH providers, like many states with vast rural populations. Understanding the demographic and geographic makeup of the workforce guides BHECN's efforts in workforce development, training and initiatives.

BHECN partners with the Health Professions Tracking Service (HPTS), College of Public Health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center to biennially track licensed BH professionals based on annual surveys returned. (See definitions of the seven tracked licensed professions on page 8.)

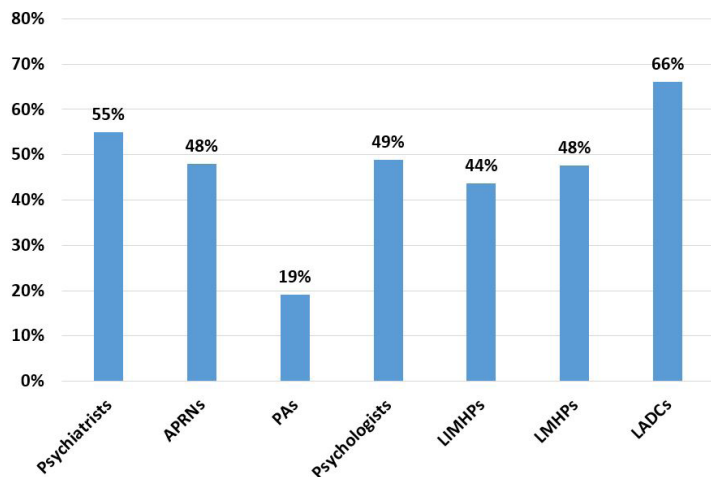
## Aging & Diversity in the Workforce

### Nebraska's workforce is aging

Addiction counselors (LADCs) and psychiatrists are the largest groups of professionals nearing retirement age, followed closely by psychologists, advance-practice registered nurses (APRNs), and licensed mental health practitioners (LMHPs).

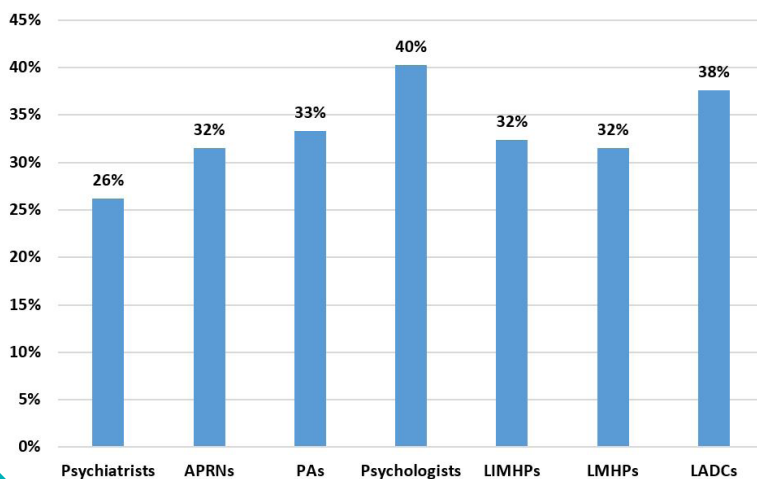
Close to half of Nebraska's BH providers are over age 50. With a rapidly aging workforce, recruiting and retaining a younger workforce is vital.

Percentage of BH Providers 50+ Years, 2020



### The racial/ethnic composition of the behavioral health workforce greatly differs from the population seeking help.<sup>4</sup>

Percentage of BH Providers with Clients Who Speak Languages Other Than English



More diverse providers are in demand, especially those fluent in languages other than English. Efforts are needed to recruit more culturally competent professionals to continue to address language barriers and align closer with cultural backgrounds.



# Licensed Behavioral Health Professions\*

## Prescribers

### Psychiatrist:

A licensed physician who specializes in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of mental illnesses, psychiatrists prescribe medications, provide talk therapy, and care for patients with complex medical problems.

### Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner (APRN-NP):

Psychiatric nurse practitioners can diagnose and treat mental illnesses, prescribe medications, and provide talk therapy. Psychiatric NPs have advanced certification in psychiatric nursing and an advanced practice nursing license with a greater level of autonomy than the registered nurse license.

### Physician Assistant (PA):

Under physician supervision, physician assistants conduct histories and physicals, perform psychiatric evaluations and assessments, order and interpret diagnostic studies, establish and manage treatment plans and order referrals as needed.

## Non-Prescribers

(Includes Doctoral (PhD/PsyD) and Master's BH Providers)

### Licensed Clinical Psychologist:

An independently licensed BH professional who performs psychological assessments, provides therapy and conducts research for a variety of mental health disorders. Licensed psychologists require a doctoral degree in an applied area of psychology.

### Licensed Mental Health Practitioner (LMHP):

A counselor in the state of Nebraska who holds a license to offer or render mental health practice services. Mental health practitioners include social workers, professional counselors, and marriage and family therapists.

### Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner (LIMHP):

A counselor in the state of Nebraska who holds a license to offer or render mental health practice services and has completed supervised hours working with clients under the major mental illness or disorder category.

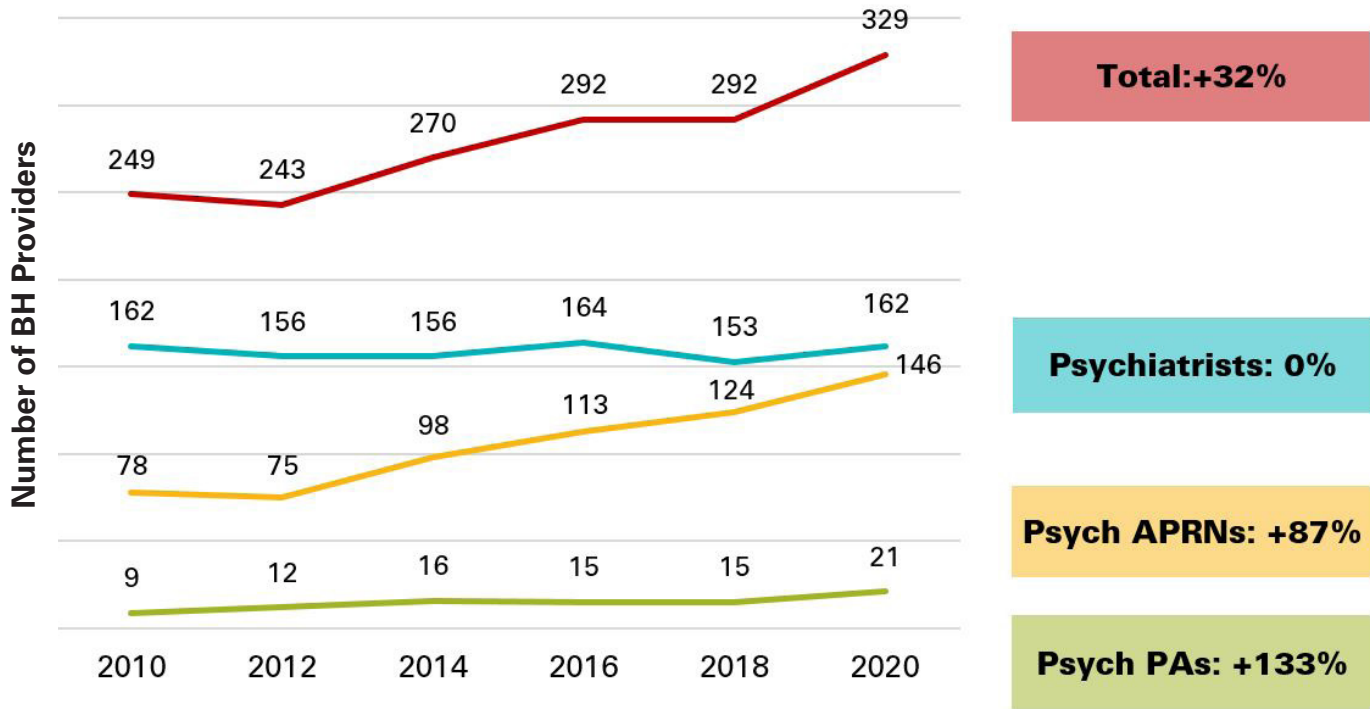
### Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LADC):

A LADC is a counselor in the state of Nebraska who holds a license to practice general counseling theories and treatment methods adapted to specific addiction theory and research for the express purpose of treating any alcohol or drug use, dependence or disorder.



\*For more information on BH professions, visit the BHECN website <http://bit.ly/BHECNCareerResources>.

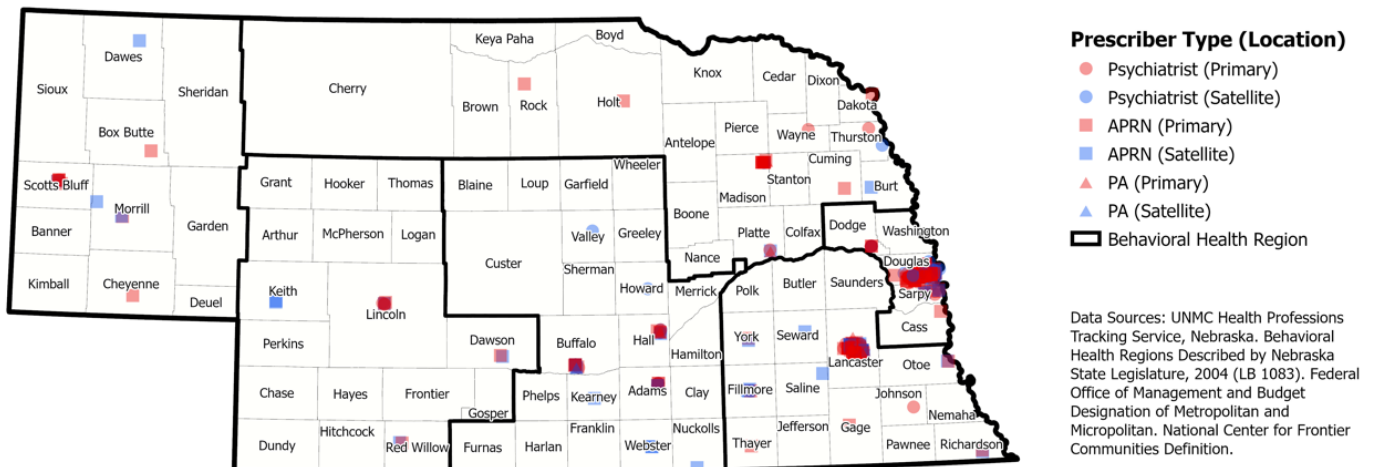
## Prescriber Trends



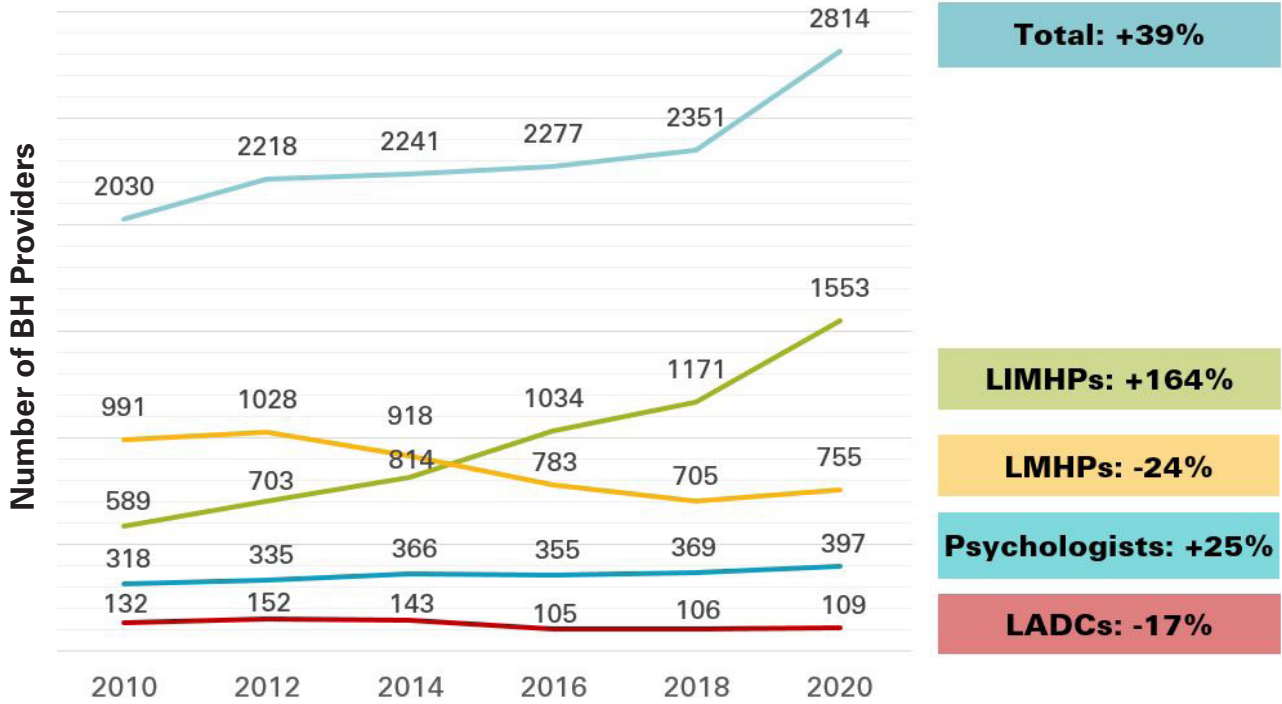
Nurse practitioners (APRNs) practicing psychiatry in Nebraska increased by 87%, physician assistants (PAs) practicing psychiatry in Nebraska increased by 133%. And although psychiatrists' numbers have fluctuated over the years they are currently the same as they were in 2010.

*For the prescriber trends graph above, the percent difference has been calculated by comparing the numbers in 2020 to those of 2010.*

### Primary and Satellite Locations of Psychiatric Prescribers in Nebraska: 2020



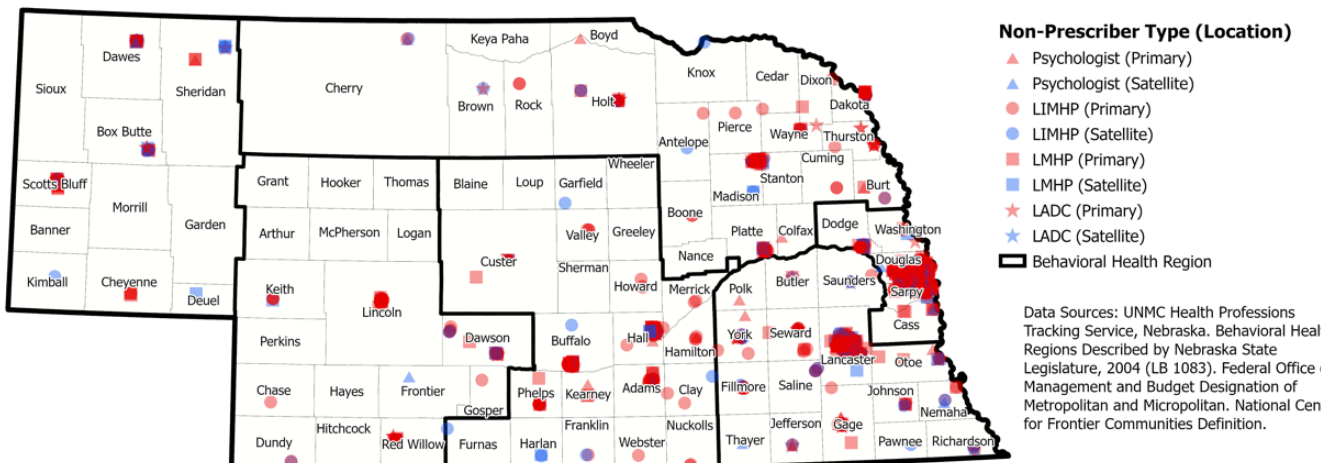
# Non-prescriber Trends



The number of psychologists and licensed independent mental health practitioners\* (LIMHPs) has grown, and the number of addiction counselors has decreased slightly.

For the non-prescriber trends graph above, the percent difference has been calculated by comparing the numbers in 2020 to those of 2010. In this chart, providers are counted only once. Many individuals have multiple licenses (e.g., LIMHP and LADC). In that case, they are only counted as LIMHP. \*The significant increase of LIMHPs and decrease of LMHPs is due to the natural progression of LMHPs completing supervised hours to become independently licensed LIMHPs.

**Primary and Satellite Locations of Psychiatric Non-Prescribers in Nebraska: 2020**



## National workforce comparison 2019

U.S. vs. Nebraska Provider Supply (per 100,000 residents)*		
Provider Type	Nebraska (2019)	U.S. (2016)
Psychiatrists	8.5	14.0
Psychiatric Nurses (APRN)	7.2	3.2
Psychiatric Physician Assistants (PA)	1.0	0.4
Psychologists	20.1	28.8

## National workforce comparison 2020

U.S. vs. Nebraska Provider Supply (per 100,000 residents)*		
Provider Type	Nebraska (2020)	U.S. (2016)
Psychiatrists	8.4	14.0
Psychiatric Nurses (APRN)	7.5	3.2
Psychiatric Physician Assistants (PA)	1.1	0.4
Psychologists	20.5	28.8

\*Estimates of the Resident Population: ACS 5-Year estimated, 2018 | Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates | Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division | <https://bhw.hrsa.gov/health-workforce-analysis/research/projections/behavioral-health-workforce-projections> <sup>6</sup>

Nebraska Provider Supply in 2020 (per 100,000 residents)*		
Provider Type	Rural Nebraska	Urban Nebraska
Psychiatrists	3	11.8
Psychiatric Nurses (APRN)	8.3	6.3
Psychiatric Physician Assistants (PA)	0.4	1.5
Psychologists	8.7	27.9

\*Based on Nebraska Workforce Analysis Study, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018, Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

# Rural Provider Support Network Conference



BHECN Panhandle hosts the Rural Provider Support Network Conference each year in support of rural providers and community stakeholders. The third annual conference was held in May 2020 and had 95 attendees for the live, virtual conference. The conference was available as a recorded webinar following the live presentation and 160 participants completed continuing education credits (CEU's).

The fourth annual conference was held in May of 2021 and had 109 participants for the live virtual conference. Continuing education credits will be available for the webinar of this conference until May 2022. Visit the website for more information: [bit.ly/RuralBH2021Modules](http://bit.ly/RuralBH2021Modules) CEU credits are still available for:

- Suicide Postvention as Prevention
- How Trauma and Historical Trauma Impact Development
- Play Therapy 101

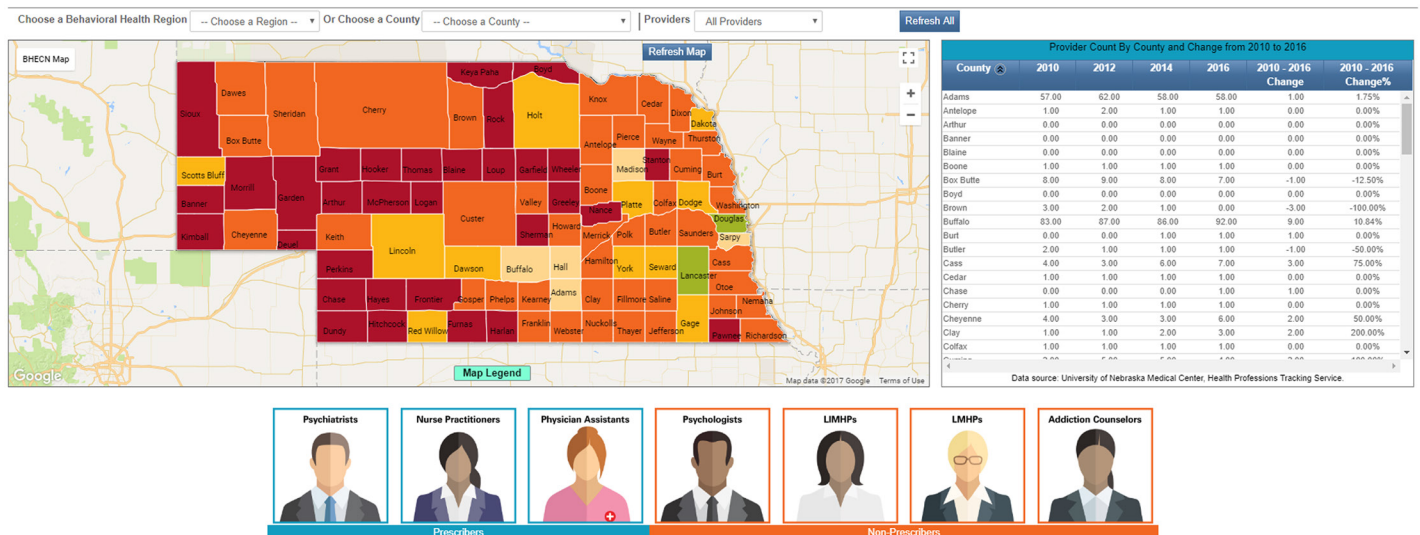
## Behavioral Health Workforce Reports

To view the entire workforce reports by profession and region, visit BHECN's website at [unmc.edu/bhecn/workforce/workforce-reports.html](http://unmc.edu/bhecn/workforce/workforce-reports.html).

## Nebraska Behavioral Health Workforce Dashboard

The Nebraska Behavioral Health Workforce Dashboard is an online, interactive tool that allows the user to search licensed BH providers by county or region to provide an accurate assessment of Nebraska's workforce.

View the dashboard here: <http://app1.unmc.edu/publichealth/bhecn/>



## Exposing Students to Careers in Behavioral Health

At the core of BHECN's operation is the development of a pipeline of Nebraska students interested in BH.



Through a series of presentations, events, and conferences, BHECN introduces students in high school, college, and professional school to careers in BH. The Ambassador Program aims to connect students, especially in rural and urban underserved communities, with resources and mentors to pursue BH careers in Nebraska.

More than 5,189 students have participated in BHECN's Ambassador Program.



Twice a year, a group of professionals talk to psychology students at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL) about their career choices.

(left to right)

Dr. Nick Guenzel, UNMC College of Nursing-Lincoln Division; Dr. Ryan Edwards, UNMC Department of Psychiatry; Ciara Warden, UNO Grace Abbott School of Social Work; and Dr. Tara Sjuts, UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute



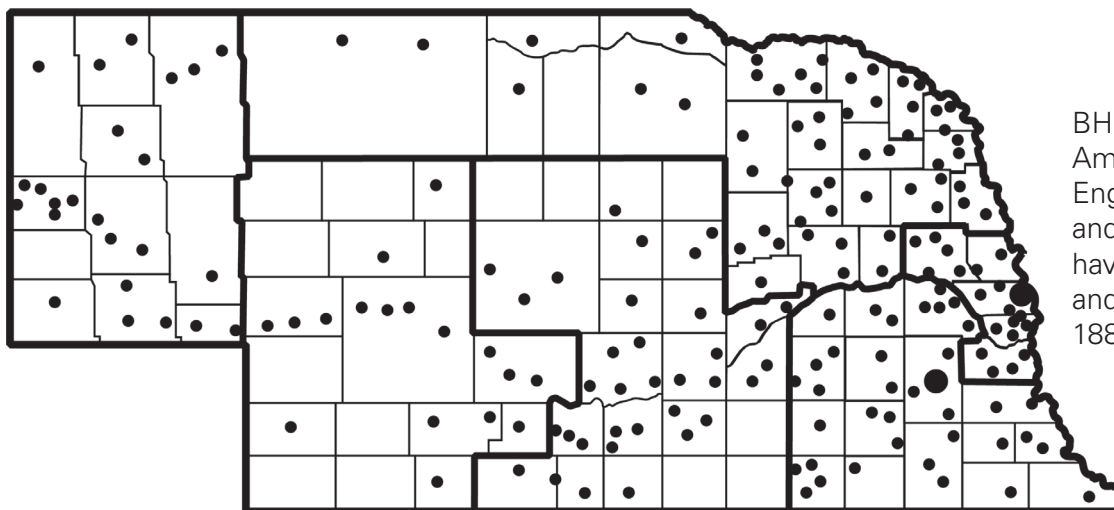
"I started undergrad as a pre-medical student and hadn't really had a lot of exposure to psychiatry. Then I was fortunate to be selected for the BHECN Ambassador College Conference and got to learn about BH in Nebraska; the different professions, opportunities, and challenges. It was a whole new world for me and where my interest in psychiatry started. Then when I went into medical school at UNMC, I came in already interested in psychiatry, probably one of the few in my class who could say that, and that was thanks to the BHECN experiences."

**Emily Royer, MD**  
Second Year Resident, Department of Psychiatry, UNMC

# High School & College Students

From 2010 to 2021, BHECN hosted several conferences and presentations for high school and college students across Nebraska. Each student was surveyed post-event about their perceptions of mental health and their interest in working in BH.

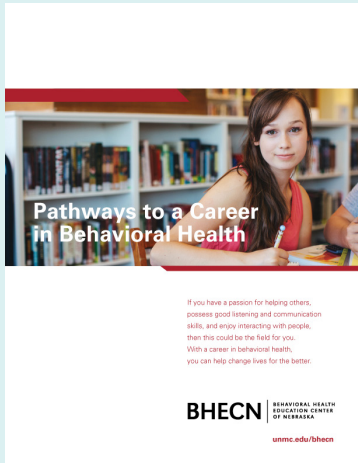
Ambassador Conferences and Events	TOTAL
F.A.R.M. C.A.M.P.	85
Rural (Kearney) 2013-2017	224
<p>In 2021, 126 students had graduated from college. Fourteen were enrolled in graduate-level, BH programs in Nebraska.</p> <p><b>60 students identified as majoring in BH related programs</b> <i>(Based on data from the National Student Clearinghouse, Oct. 2021)</i></p>	
Urban Underserved (North & South Omaha)	118
Native American (South Sioux City)	149
HS Career Fairs and Presentations (Statewide)	2,389
<p>Ninety percent of students reported their perception of mental illness changed as a result of BHECN presentations.</p>	
College Conference (Omaha) 2010-2016	189
<p>Five students from the college ambassador conference graduated from medical school and entered psychiatry residency programs.</p> <p><b>In 2021, 93 former college ambassador participants had graduated from college and were enrolled in graduate-level programs. Forty-one in BH graduate level programs.</b></p>	
BHECN Ambassador Career Engagement Award Programs 2017-2021	1,466
UNMC High School Alliance BH Course 2017-2021	83
Additional Mentorship and Seminars	486
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,189</b>



BHECN conferences, Ambassador Career Engagement activities, and career presentations have impacted high school and college students from 188 Nebraska towns.



## Pathways to a Career in Behavioral Health



BHECN produced the **Pathways to a Career in Behavioral Health**. The brochure features eight licensed BH careers and the academic pathways required to pursue each career. In 2020, the Pathways brochure was translated into Spanish.

Download the brochures and other career videos and resources: <http://bit.ly/BHpathways>

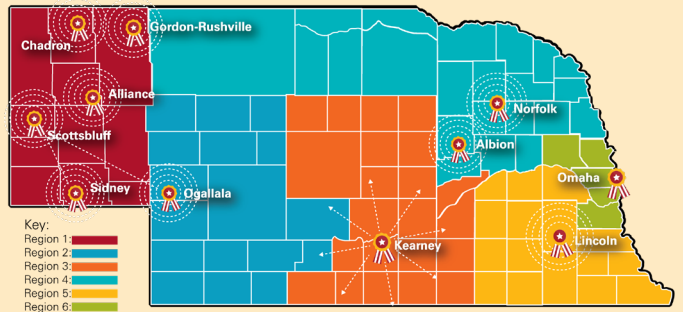
## Caminos hacia una carrera en salud conductual



## Awarding Opportunities

In June 2017, BHECN launched the **Ambassador Career Engagement Awards**, providing funds for community groups to introduce local youth to BH professions through experiences closer to home.

BHECN selected six groups for funding in 2019-2020. Prior to the 2020 coronavirus pandemic, 748 students participated in the Ambassador programs and learned about BH careers. Then because of pandemic restrictions we were unable to select groups in 2020-2021.



Ambassador Career Engagement Award Program Locations



A group of professionals share career information with approximately 196 students at the 2019 Teen Summit. The summit was hosted by North Omaha Community Care Council and the Center for Reducing Health Disparities in UNMC's College of Public Health. Funding was provided through the Ambassador Career Engagement Award program in 2019.

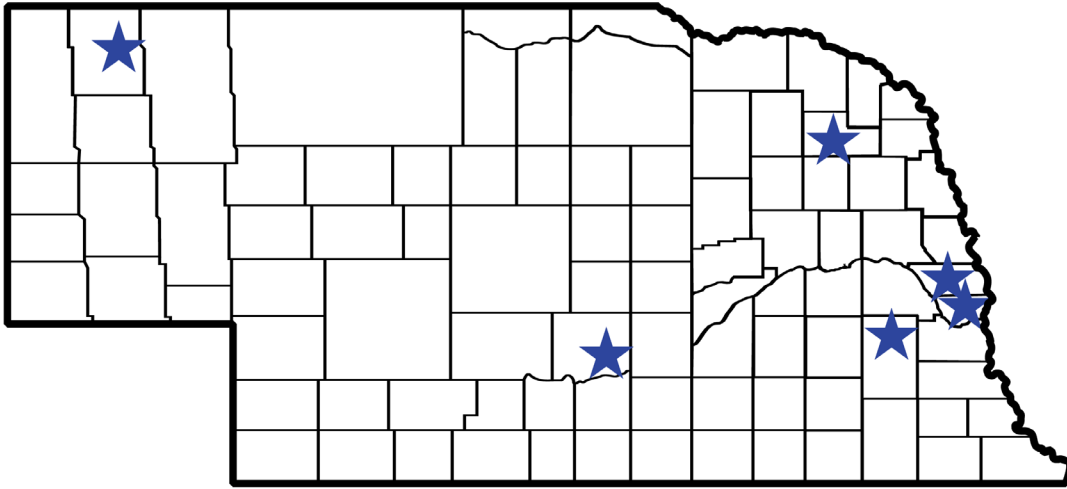


# Nebraska Behavioral Health Education Partnership (NeBHEP)

## Retaining BH students in Nebraska

BHECN partners with the 18 academic institutions providing graduate-level BH education in Nebraska to track the number of students graduating and staying in Nebraska. The goals of the NeBHEP collaboration are to strengthen relationships among all of the programs, create a unified voice among the different professions and develop more interprofessional training opportunities for students across the state.

### BH Academic Programs in Nebraska



- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Bellevue University Counseling Program    | UNK - Counseling Program               | UNMC - Psychiatric Nursing             |
| Creighton University Psychiatry Residency | UNL - Clinical Psychology              | UNMC - Psychiatry Residency            |
| Creighton University Psychiatric Nursing  | UNL - Counseling Psychology            | UNMC & UNO - Applied Behavior Analyst  |
| Chadron State College Counseling Program  | UNL - Marriage & Family Therapy        | UNO - Counseling Program               |
| Clarkson College Psychiatric Nursing      | UNL - School Psychology                | UNO - School of Social Work            |
| Doane University Counseling Program       | UNMC - Munroe-Meyer Dept of Psychology | Wayne State College Counseling Program |

Through the NeBHEP collaboration, BHECN works closely with faculty to develop training tools and resources for the **BHECN Webinar Series: Core Topics for Behavioral Health Providers**. This free webinar series is designed to educate BH trainees on a variety of practical BH topics, including pandemic stress and more. For information visit the website: [bit.ly/CoreTopics2021](https://bit.ly/CoreTopics2021)

## BHECN Kearney

The advisory board at BHECN Kearney helped to develop a Behavioral and Mental Health minor for students at the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK). The minor degree was first offered in the Fall of 2020. It focuses on the relationship between individual behaviors and the impact on physical and mental health. Students have the option to pursue one of two emphases: the general Behavioral and Mental Health emphasis, or the Alcohol and Drug Counseling emphasis. The degree requires 23 credit hours of course work and there are currently 80 students enrolled in the program.



“One of the benefits of BHECN is the 18 partnerships. It’s not just counseling programs, we’ve got counseling, social work, psychiatry, and psychology. And the positive part of that is we don’t get siloed. We can connect, communicate and work with each other so we can not only better understand each other’s professions, but we can help support each other, learning and understanding how our roles fit together.”

**David Hof, EdD, LIMHP**  
Chair of Counseling, School Psychology & Family Science, UNK

# The Future Workforce

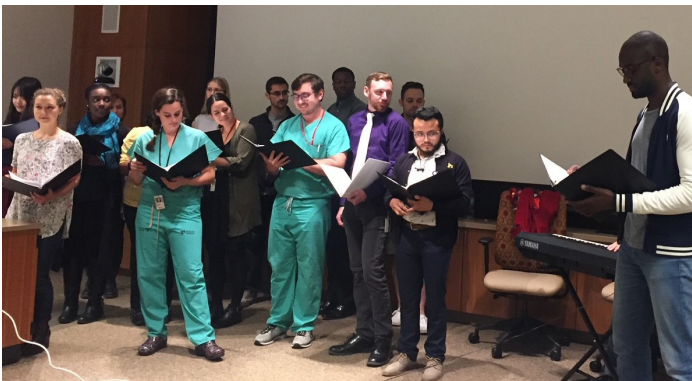
## Psychiatry Interest Group (PsIG)



BHECN supports activities on the UNMC campus through the Psychiatry Interest Group (PsIG), which is pronounced "sig."

The PsIG group is an active, medical student-run organization which works to promote psychiatry and mental health through a variety of different educational activities, mentorship and outreach.

## PsIG Events



In the fall of 2019, the UNMC Psychiatry Interest Group (PsIG) hosted an event where students felt safe sharing their stories and encouraged other students who might be struggling with mental health concerns to reach out for help. UNMC musicians also attended and provided inspirational music.

## FARM CAMP

FARM CAMP (Frontier Area Rural Mental-Health Camp And Mentorship Program) is a week-long summer program developed by Dr. Cate Jones-Hazledine, owner of Western Nebraska Behavioral Health. The camp introduces rural students to careers in BH and connects them with mentors working in rural communities. The first FARM CAMP was held in 2013 in Rushville, Nebraska.



FARM CAMP attendees in 2019

FARM CAMP includes daily lectures on various topics including:

- History of behavioral health
- Basic clinical skills
- Basic brain anatomy
- Psychotropic medications
- Common disorders in rural practice
- Normal vs. disordered behavior
- Cultural competency
- Consumer issues
- And many other topics

In addition, FARM CAMP offers a college class with approval from Chadron State College (CSC) as a Special Topics class. Campers are eligible to earn college credit through CSC for the camp's successful completion.

The camp also includes participation from rural BH providers from many disciplines (psychology, counseling, psychiatry, substance use disorder, school counseling and others) who speak to the campers about their work, the training it requires, and the advantages and disadvantages of the field. After their first camp, campers are assigned a professional mentor to follow their progress and provide ongoing support and networking.

BHECN helps fund FARM CAMP to help students from rural and underserved communities learn about and develop interest in BH careers.

Website: [bit.ly/FARMCAMPInfo](http://bit.ly/FARMCAMPInfo)



## Preparing & Training the Future Workforce

Students and trainees are crucial to improving the BH workforce in Nebraska. BHECN has developed multiple partnerships with the 18 BH graduate programs throughout the state and is providing interprofessional training to rural and urban graduate trainees in all areas of Nebraska from Omaha to the Panhandle. BHECN collaborates with Psychiatry and Psychiatric Nursing programs at UNMC and Creighton to address the need for prescribers in

the behavioral workforce. Other student education in mental health assessment and treatment is provided through collaborations with Nebraska graduate programs to counselors, social workers, psychologists, marriage and family therapists, and drug & alcohol counselors. Training in evidence-based practices is also available to practitioners, medical clinics, hospitals, and correctional facilities.

### Psychiatry Residents

BHECN annually funds four to six residency positions in the Creighton University/UNMC Psychiatry Residency Program. Residents are required to complete rural rotations during their second year of training. UNMC has developed a Psychiatric Residency Program, and the first residents entered the program in July 2020. The joint Creighton/UNMC Psychiatry Residency program will continue while the current residents transition through.

### Lasting Hope Resident of the Year 2019



On February 25, 2020, the Lasting Hope Recovery Center Resident of the Year Award for 2019 went to Dr. Justin Romano. (Other nominees were Dr. Alec Dragic and Dr. Emily Hochstetler.)

### Lasting Hope Resident of the Year 2020



On January 26, 2021, the Lasting Hope Recovery Center Resident of the Year Award for 2020 was presented during a virtual ceremony to Dr. Alexandra Burt. (Other nominees were Dr. Rachel Carpenter and Dr. Samuel Warn.)

Dr. Burt was born and raised in Omaha, NE. She earned her bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Saint Louis University, and medical degree from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine. During medical school, she was involved with student-run free clinics and working with the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team at Community Alliance.

## Preparing & Training the Future Workforce

### Internships & Training Sites

BHECN is involved in placing student trainees into internship and training programs with an emphasis on exposing them to opportunities in rural or urban underserved communities. BHECN supports internship training for BH trainees in multiple disciplines, including:

- Psychiatric Nursing
- Psychology
- Counseling
- Social Work
- Marriage & Family Therapy
- Addiction Counseling
- Physician Assistant

### Psychiatric Nursing Practicum Trainees

With the UNMC's College of Nursing and the Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI), BHECN collaborates in providing practicum support for seven psychiatric nursing students annually who agree to complete part of their training in primary care medical practices. Psychiatry NP students take some classes online, allowing several to train in rural clinics near their homes. In addition, the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services and Lincoln Regional Center Training Program supports four students each year.

### Psychology Internship Training

Utilizing multiple funding sources, BHECN cooperates with the MMI's federal Graduate Psychology Education (GPE), and Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) grants to support 37 internships yearly. Internships are supported in rural Nebraska towns including, Beatrice, Columbus, Hastings, Kearney, Norfolk, Scottsbluff, and the Nebraska Panhandle.

### Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) Internships

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has the state's only MFT training program. Through a collaboration with BHECN and the UNMC Internal Medicine Department, 2 MFT students per year are supported for their required internships. Interns train in the Omaha community internal medicine primary care clinic.

### Counseling Graduate Internship Training

Of the six counselor training programs in Nebraska, three are located in rural areas where graduate trainees are primarily from surrounding towns and are more likely to remain in rural practice. Funds from BHECN, MMI, and the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services and Lincoln Regional Center training program combine to support interns annually from UNK, Chadron State, and Wayne State, as well as counseling interns from UNO.



"BHECN has supported me throughout my residency, as well as supporting me during medical school. In my second year, my rural rotation was done in North Platte, Nebraska. That influenced my decision to go into psychiatry in a rural setting. During residency, BHECN helped to finance and fund my rural rotations. I also know they help with the rotations at Community Alliance and Lasting Hope. BHECN is an integral part of the residency program, in addition to being supportive during medical school."

**Erin Kindred, MD**  
Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry Fellow, UNMC Department of Neurology

## Drug and Alcohol Counselor Student Training

With funding from a joint Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant (HRSA-BHWET) to MMI, BHECN supports tuition and fees for drug and alcohol counselor academic coursework at eight colleges and universities throughout the state: Bellevue University, Metro Community College, Western Nebraska Community College, Northeast Community College, Doane University, Chadron State, UNK and Central Community College. Supplemental funding supports these trainees in obtaining their supervised practicum hours required for licensure.

## Community Health Worker Education

Community Health Workers (CHW) provide support to medical clinics and patients with all types of physical and mental disorders. BHECN provides grant funding for CHW students (tuition and coursework fees) through the HRSA-BHWET grant. The CHW coursework is offered at Metro Community College, Northeast Community College and is available online for trainees statewide.

### Graduate Residency and Internship Training

Students Supported by BHECN	Number of Students (FY 2020-2021)
Psychiatry (with UNMC & Creighton Psychiatry)	15
Psychiatric Nursing (with College of Nursing & MMI)	15
Psychology (with MMI)	37
Counseling (with UNO, Wayne St, UNK, Chadron)	22
Marriage & Family Therapists (with UNL & UNMC Internal Medicine)	2
Drug & Alcohol Counseling (with UNK & Chadron State)	11

## Paraprofessional training

Students Supported by BHECN	Number of Students (FY 2020-2021)
Drug and alcohol tuition and fee support	70
Drug and alcohol practicum support	16
Community health worker tuition and fee support	24



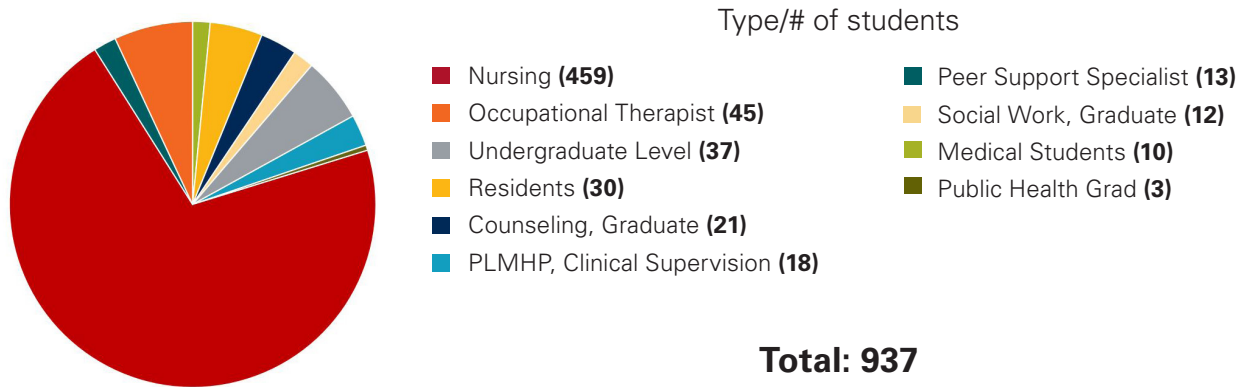
“We have clinicians working with us who were with us for their practicum and then their internship, and then they stayed. And so, 14 years later, they’re still a full-time clinician with our practice. And the feedback we get is that being able to integrate themselves into a BH practice and to be guided along the process towards full licensure and their eventual clinical work is very helpful.”

**Cate Jones-Hazledine, PhD**  
Co-Director, BHECN Panhandle, Licensed Psychologist

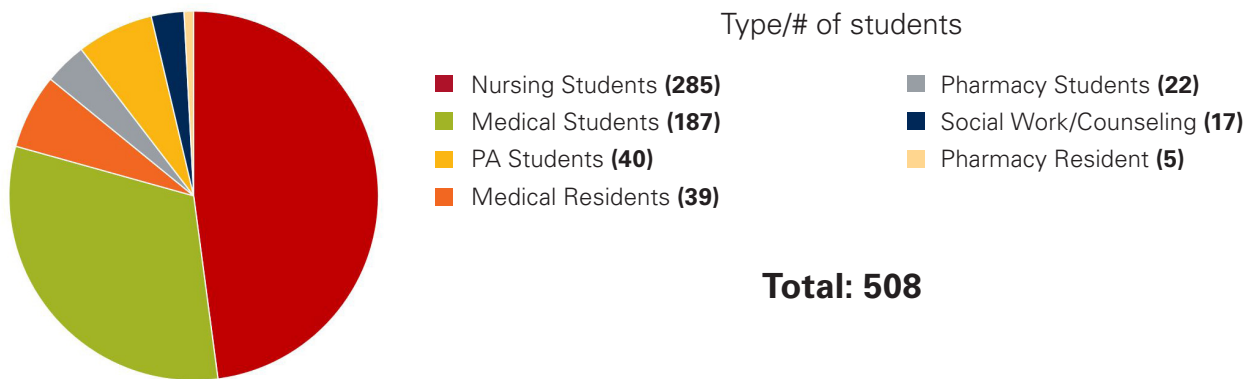
## Interprofessional Training Sites

BHECN has collaborated with Community Alliance, Lasting Hope Recovery Center, and Richard Young Behavioral Health to establish model BH interprofessional, community-based education, and training sites, providing medical and BH student rotations. The mission of this collaboration is to create a replicable model of hospital-based BH training to support interprofessional clinical training for the state.

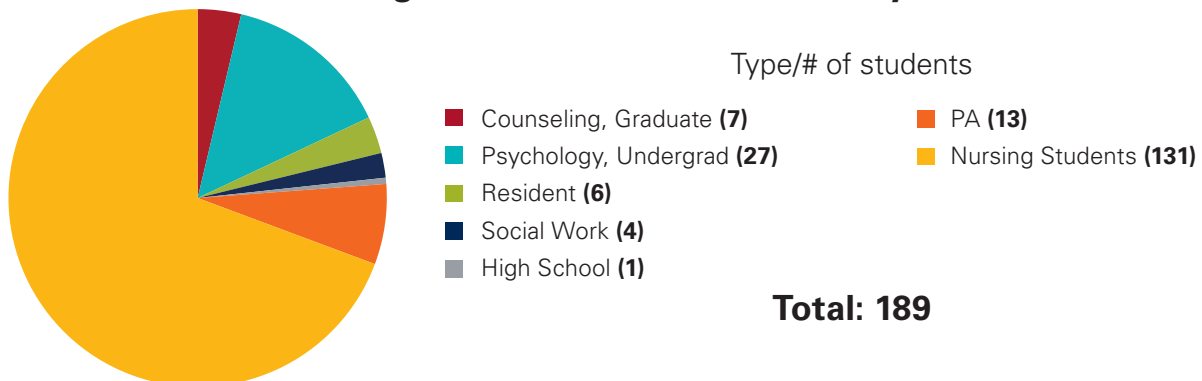
### Community Alliance (Omaha) FY 2020-2021



### Lasting Hope Recovery Center (Omaha) FY 2020-2021



### Richard Young Behavioral Health (Kearney) FY 2020-2021



# Integrated Behavioral Health Care in Primary Care Settings

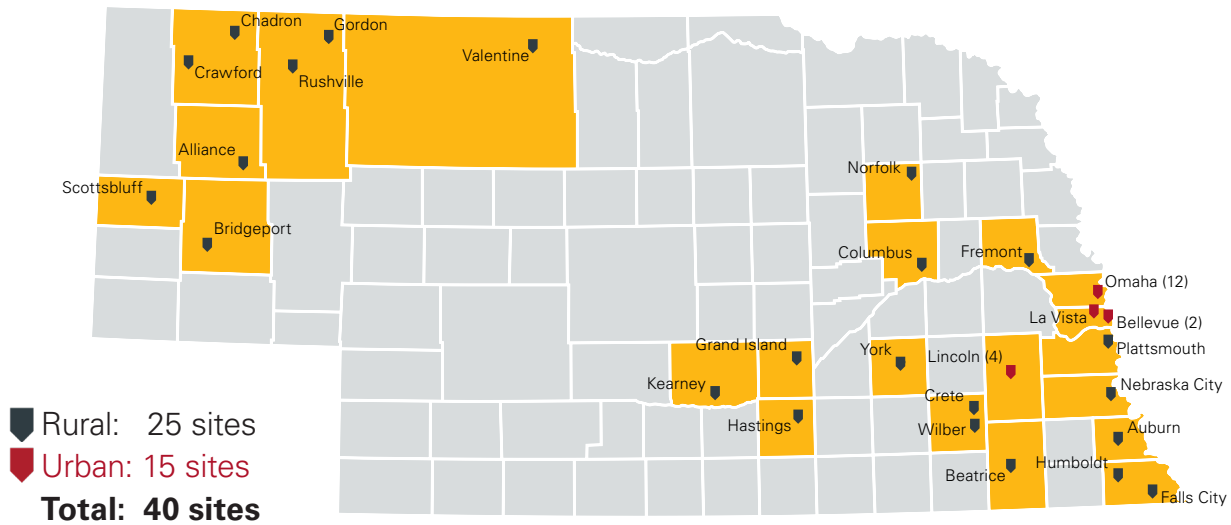
In partnership with the Munroe-Meyer Institute, 40 integrated BH/primary care clinics have been established across Nebraska:

- 25 of these clinics serve rural areas
- 15 serve urban areas



In addition to providing ease of BH service access to children, adolescents and families across Nebraska, these clinics serve as critical BH intern training sites, training **52 students** in FY 2020 & 2021. (See [trainee placement map on page 26](#))

## MMI Integrated Behavioral Health Locations



Visit [http://bit.ly/IntegratedBHLocs\\_2019](http://bit.ly/IntegratedBHLocs_2019) for more information about integrated BH clinics in Nebraska

**Integrated Behavioral Health:** Nebraska faces a shortage of mental health practitioners, particularly in rural areas of the state. One of the ways to reduce the barriers of access to BH in these areas is establishing an on-site or consulting BH professional in primary care clinics, allowing BH problems to be treated where they often first arise - the primary physician's office. This model of care can also help save time and money for the practice and lead to better health outcomes.

**BH Need:** The Nebraska Health Professions Tracking System indicates that, of the licensed 153 psychiatrists, 369 psychologists, 124 PMHNPs, and 1,876 licensed MH practitioners, only 26% serve rural residents who reside over a 74,000 square mile area while 74% of the BH professional provide services to the population residing in two metropolitan areas (approx. 3,000 square miles).

**Solution:** Increase the number of BH professionals in primary care practices.

## Legislative Resources

Legislative Bills	Type of Trainees	# of Trainees	Description	Impact/Expected Outcome
LB901 (2014)	Doctoral level trainees in psychology  <i>*IBHC Training Sites</i>	5 per year	Provides funding (\$274,000 annually) for five doctoral-level psychology interns in rural practice sites across the state. Interns received 10,000 hours of supervised training from licensed psychologists working in integrated behavioral/primary care clinics across the state.	Psychology interns supported by LB 901 have provided 3,500+ dedicated patient visits to children, adolescents, and families in rural and frontier areas of Nebraska; specifically in Omaha, Norfolk, Hastings, Kearney and Chadron.
LB242	Graduate-level trainees in psychiatric nursing, counselors, physician assistants (PAs), social work, and psychology	66 Trainees  15 Students hired for Full-time positions after placements.	Provides General Funds (\$400,000) to BHECN and the University of Nebraska partners to collaborate with the Department of Correctional Services and the Department of Health and Human Services Regional Centers to develop and offer training programs for students to become BH professionals.	BH professionals in the correctional and regional center systems instruct BH trainees in evidence-based approaches to BH assessment and treatment.

## 2020 Nebraska Behavioral Health Policy Forum



In December 2020, more than 100 people from 25 communities across Nebraska attended the BH Policy Forum.

The forum included presentations by Alan Morgen, CEO of the National Rural Health Association; Nebraska Senator John Arch, and a panel discussion with rural and BH professionals from across Nebraska.

Topics included: telehealth and broadband internet access across the state, the mental health impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, and the importance of having a qualified and multi-cultural BH workforce now and into the future.

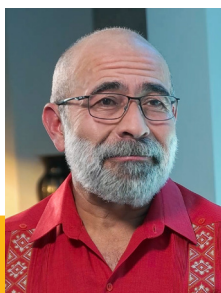
Watch the recorded event at [vimeo.com/497426630](https://vimeo.com/497426630)



## External Funding - Student Support & Funding

Source	Description & Type of Trainees	Number of trainees	Portion dedicated to students
HRSA-BHWET (\$1.1 million) Health Resources and Services Administration Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Paraprofessional Grant 2017-2021	Non-traditional students receive tuition and laptops to complete CHW and PLADC programs with an emphasis on recruiting rural, low-income and minority students.  Paraprofessionals - community health workers (CHWs) and provisionally licensed addiction counselors (PLADCs)	70/year over four years (280 total)	\$772,240
AmeriCorps University of Nebraska Kearney, Counseling and School Psychology (UNK-CSP) Program (\$190,124) annually renewed	AmeriCorps members completed 900 new client intakes and screened 800 people for substance use disorders. From Scottsbluff to Omaha, students were placed in rural and underserved settings.  Graduate-level mental health counselors and undergraduate drug and alcohol counselors	45 trainees (since starting in 2017)	\$212,533
Health Resources and Services Administration Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Supplemental Grant (\$400,000)	Drug and alcohol counselors	10 per year for two years	\$200,000

*\*IBHC Training Sites: Trainees complete supervised training at primary care clinics with integrated BH care services. See more on page 22.*



"We have students that come to the rotations when they're in medical school. Students for nursing, nursing assistants, physician assistants, therapists, social workers, residents, all sorts of students come to Richard Young, so it's been a good team BHECN and Richard Young. And I can tell you by experience, when I was much younger, my family was going to move to a rural area and my mother wanted to give me the choice, and I told her, "I was born a big city guy, I'm going to die a big city guy", I'm now in Kearney, Nebraska. And ask me if I would go and live in a big city again. No, I love the rural areas. I love the rural Midwest. It's a life changing experience."

**Hugo Gonzalez, MD**  
Psychiatrist & Medical Director of Richard Young Hospital, Kearney, NE

## External Funding

### Retain & Supporting the Workforce

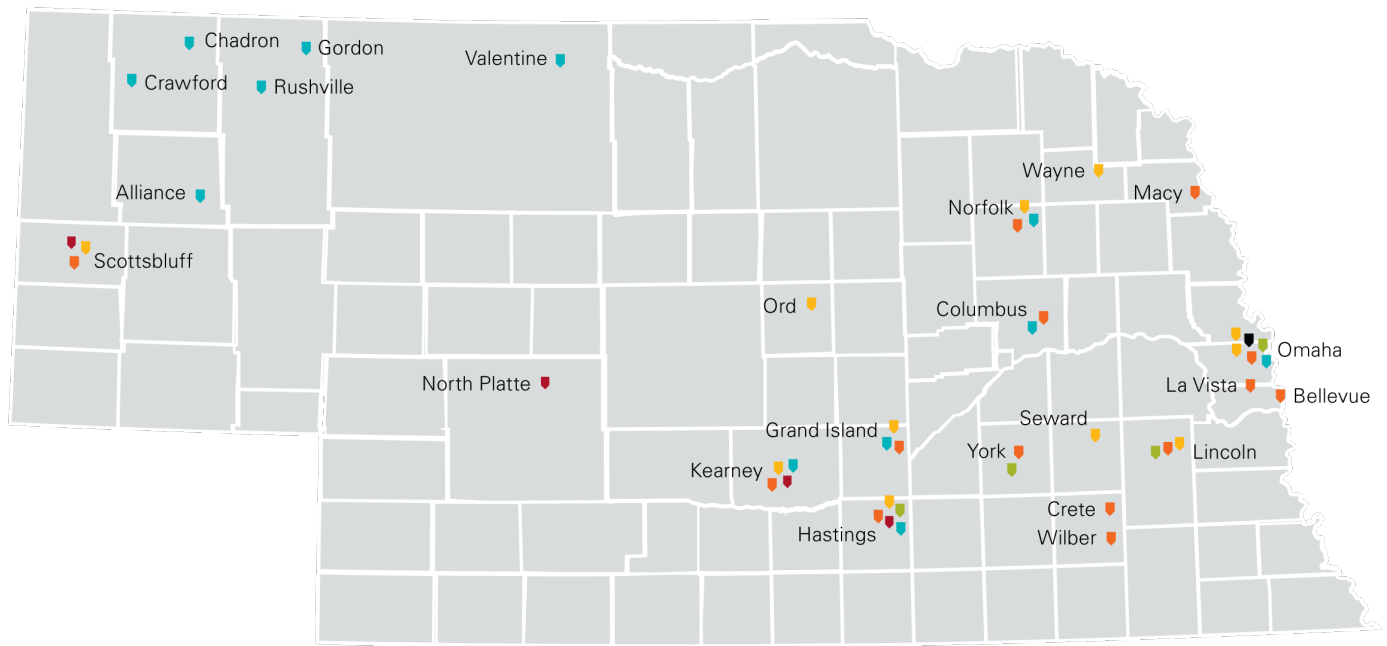
Source	Description & Type of Trainees	Number of trainees	Impact/Expected Outcome
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration-Mental Health Awareness and Training grant (\$375,000)	BHECN, in collaboration with our veteran culturally competent partners, train families, caregivers, and service providers who are in contact with veterans throughout Nebraska in culturally appropriate QPR Gatekeeper Training for suicide prevention and veteran specific de-escalation methods.  Veterans, families of veterans and local and state agencies	250 per year for three years	To heighten awareness, knowledge and skills of those trained in the program so they recognize the signs and symptoms of mental illness and can respond appropriately and safely to those with a mental health disorder.  The goal of this grant is to train 750 people (250 per year for three years) however, we exceeded and trained 1,264 total.
The United Healthcare Foundation (\$250,000)	In 2020, The United Healthcare Foundation awarded BHECN with The United Healthcare Empowering Health grant. The grant will enhance BHECN's mission to recruit, train and maintain a quality BH workforce in Nebraska by providing additional funding support for BHECN's Ambassador and Nebraska Behavioral Health Education Partnership (NeBHEP) programs.		The goal of this grant is to support the Ambassador Program and strengthen the 18 academic partnerships.  BHECN is currently developing an APP to help build connections between mentors and mentees in the fields of BH.



"There really are many benefits to placing students in rural practicums and internships. The main benefit is there's a shortage in Nebraska, especially in our rural areas. So by placing students in a rural area, it's giving those students experience to come to rural Nebraska. In some ways, it gives them a taste of what it's like to work in a rural area."

**Tara Wilson, PhD**  
Co-Director, BHECN Panhandle, Associate Professor, Chadron State College

## Training Sites Funded by State and Federal Funds\*



### Funding Sources:

- Psychiatric Rural Rotations
- LB 901
- HRSA-BHWET Grant
- HRSA-BHWET Supplemental-Omaha

- AmeriCorps UNK-CSP Grant
- Corrections (LB242)

\*See pages 23-24 for more detail on funding sources



"Everybody thinks that ranching's kind of a simple occupation, but I'm a veterinarian, a welder, a fabricator, a mechanic, a caregiver, a father, and a husband. We wear a lot of hats, you have to be extremely diverse, and there's a lot of stress when you ranch. Not only is your family dependent upon you, but in my case, I care for a little over 1,000 animals. Their survival is dependent upon me every day. I have to make sure they're fed, their health is good and maintain equipment to keep them fed, pay the bills, figure out how to market and make all those things work."

[Read the entire story on page 31.](#)

**Ryan Sexson**

**Nebraska Rancher - A Nebraska Rancher's Behavioral Health Story - Page 31**

## Strengthening & Supporting the Current BH Workforce

BHECN is dedicated to retaining a skilled and passionate workforce in Nebraska. BHECN supports the BH workforce through professional development, training opportunities and resources to facilitate networking, connect with colleagues and promote retention.

# of Participants	Virtual Conferences, Webinars and Training
213	2020 Core Topic Webinars
113	2020 Heal the Healer
95	2020 3rd Annual Rural Provider Conference
70	The Intersection of Brain Injury and BH Needs
113	Focus on Forensics (Partnership with UNL Public Policy)
382	2021 Core Topics Webinars
N/A	Behavioral Health Integration for Primary Care Nurses
109	2021 4th Annual Rural Provider Conference
80	Tele-Behavioral Health Consultation: Primary Care Webinar Series
147	2021 Rural Practice Series
83	2021 Virtual Student Conference
<b>1,405</b>	<b>Total Attendees</b>

## Heal The Healer 2020

On Friday, March 13, 2020, BH professionals gathered to learn strategies and techniques for taking care of themselves at BHECN’s Heal The Healer conference. BHECN and the UNMC Department of Psychiatry hosted and sponsored the event, partnering with UNMC’s College of Nursing, Center for Nursing Education to provide 5 hours of continuing education. During the day-long event, participants discussed personal health and well-being, compassion fatigue, and secondary traumatic stress as it pertains to the professional role. It was BHECN’s last live conference before the coronavirus pandemic shut down live events.



Taryn Hughes of Forest, Hughes & Associates, presents at Heal the Healer 2020.



“As practicing professionals, we have to complete a certain amount of CEU’s every year as a requirement for our licensure. So, having training readily available online to take at our pace when we need it is very helpful, and if it’s free, then it’s even better.”

**Grace Johnson, LIMHP, LADC**  
**Psychotherapist, Nebraska Medicine and Owner - Red Nation Healing**

## Live Training with Region 3 Behavioral Health Services

BHECN partners with Region 3 Behavioral Health Services to provide customized training sessions on topics ranging from compassion fatigue, trauma-informed care, calmer classrooms, mindfulness and more.

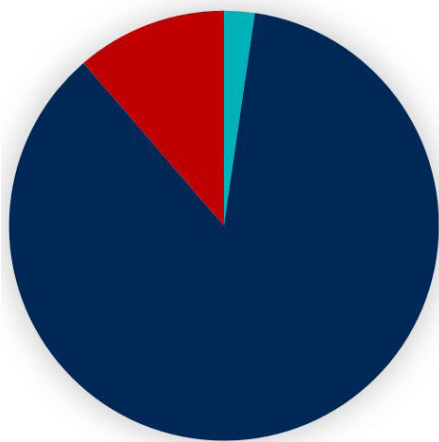
In FY 2020-2021, **2,952 individuals completed training, with 100% representing rural areas.**

The Region 3 trainers provided 104 educational sessions covering 12 training topics.

The three most popular topics were:

- Compassion Fatigue
- Coping with COVID
- Trauma 101

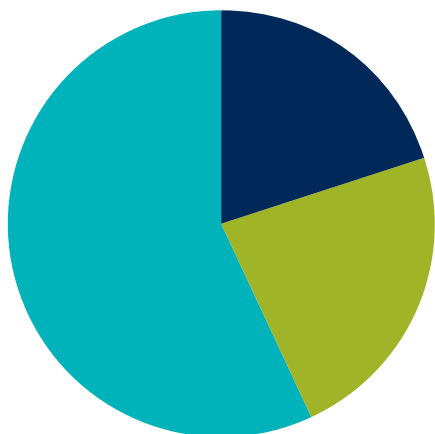
## BHECN-Provided Training FY 2020-2021



- Live Virtual Conferences (**4,244 participants**)
- Recorded Webinars (**557 participants**)
- Live In-Person Conferences (**113 participants**)

**FY 2020-2021 Total: 4,914**

## BHECN-Provided Training FY 2018-2019 (for comparison)



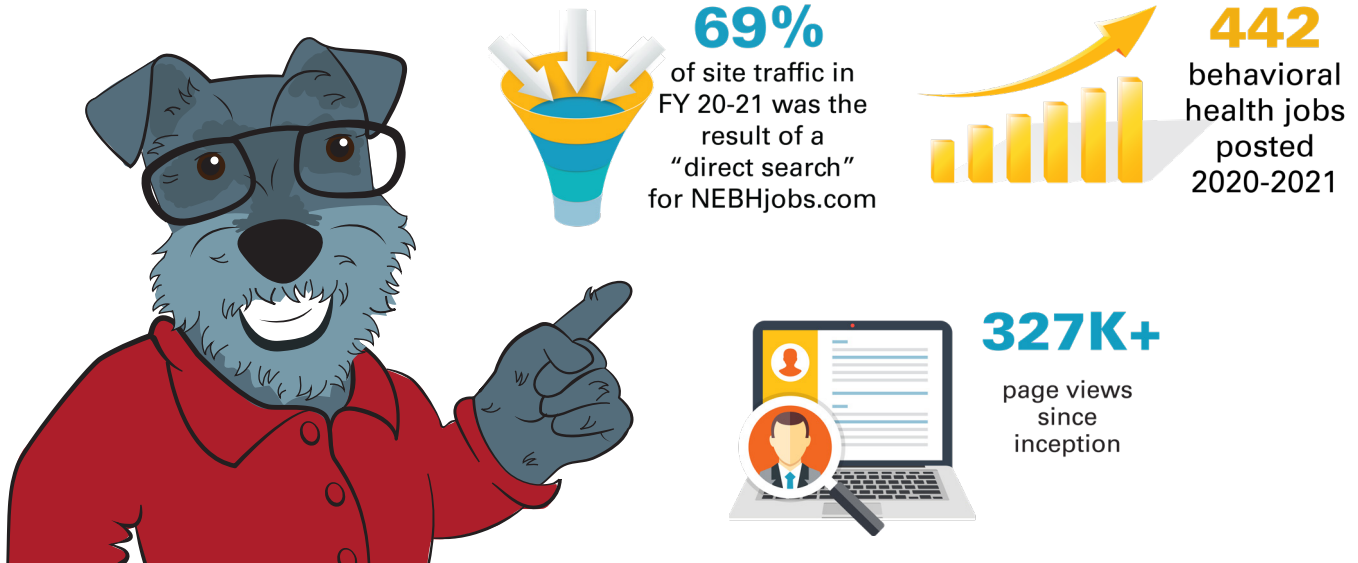
- Online Training - Webinars (**666 participants**)
- Conferences - In-Person (**761 participants**)
- Live Training - In-Person (**1,878 participants**)

**FY 2018-2019 Total: 3,305**

# NEBHjobs.com

## Nebraska Behavioral Health Jobs

To streamline BH career opportunities in the state, BHECN collaborated with **Region V Systems** in early 2015 to launch a website [NEBHjobs.com](https://www.nebhjobs.com) connecting BH employers in Nebraska with job seekers. The site is free for employers to post jobs and free for job seekers to search for jobs.



## Future Directions

### Professional Development Initiatives 2021 & Beyond:

One of BHECN's greatest strengths is the ability to be responsive to the needs of the workforce.

During the past 18 months, we transitioned to all-virtual training due to the coronavirus pandemic and adjusted our training focus to meet the needs of the current workforce. We listened to the feedback we received, and with students' and current professionals' input, we have offered training on provider wellness, diversity, equity and inclusion, and forensic BH.

BHECN's goal is to travel every year to each region and learn more about the needs specific to each area. Though we could not travel due to the coronavirus pandemic, we have continued our relationships with stakeholders virtually and connected creatively with students. We are currently developing a BHECN app for students to access our mentorship network, which will help engage students on an innovative platform.

By partnering with the 18 academic programs which educate and train the future workforce, BHECN is in a unique position to follow up with graduates, conduct field research to identify trends, and seek solutions to the barriers preventing some provisionally licensed professionals from becoming completely licensed in Nebraska.

Our goal for the next two years is to return to in-person training and events, and we are committed to keeping the creative spirit developed since the coronavirus pandemic to stretch our programming and expand our reach.

Our mission is to expand and enhance the BH workforce to improve access to care for Nebraskans. We are committed to meeting the educational needs of our workforce and continuing to adapt to those needs.

## BHECN Partners

BHECN's network of partners extends across the state of Nebraska to ensure we are recruiting, training, and retaining professionals from all areas of the state. The diversity of our partnerships helps connect BH students to mentors and training, and professionals to their peers and potential career opportunities.

## The BHECN Serenity Project



Website: [bit.ly/BHECNserenityproject](https://bit.ly/BHECNserenityproject)

Video Showcase: [vimeo.com/showcase/6928355](https://vimeo.com/showcase/6928355)

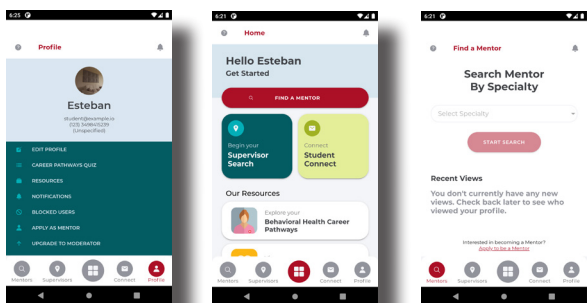
BHECN partnered with Lotus House of Yoga in 2020 to develop a free virtual yoga and meditation series in response to coronavirus pandemic stress. The series was designed as a resource to support BH providers, health professionals, front-line responders, and anyone looking for ways to relieve stress, learn relaxation techniques, and find a new balance. In addition to the online wellness sessions, the series also included segments designed by BHECN staff members on "Finding Control," "Ergonomics," "Working From Home," "Taking Care of Yourself," "Strategies for Balance," and "Parenting During a Crisis."

## Building Bridges



With funding from the United Healthcare Foundation grant, BHECN partnered with NEBHJobs.com and hosted a virtual conference on April 23, 2021 for 62 Nebraska college students and 16 professionals interested in exploring BH careers. Participants learned about wellness and heard inspirational stories of living with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), addiction, and recovery. Using virtual breakout rooms, students could meet BH professionals and trainees to ask questions and learn more about BH careers.

## BHECN Mobile App

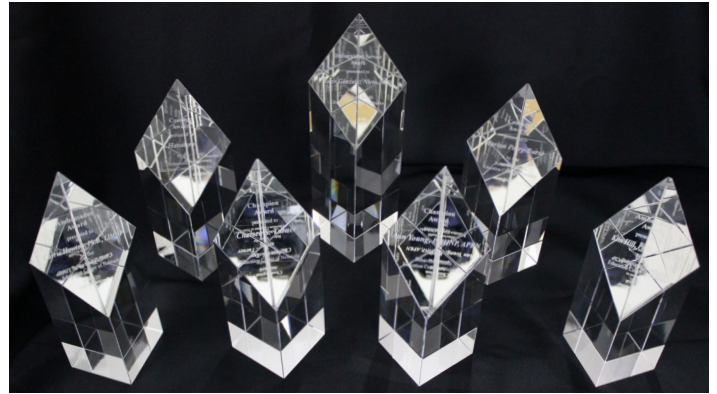


In partnership with United Healthcare Foundation, BHECN is developing a mobile application which will allow students to discover more about BH careers and connect with BH mentors and supervisors in Nebraska. The mobile application is expected to launch in 2022.

## BHECN Annual Awards

Every year, BHECN gives out awards to recognize individuals who make a significant impact in the BH field. The awards honor individuals who are mentoring others and advocating greater access, awareness, and information about BH.

The award winners for the 2020 BHECN Annual Awards:  
Kearney -- Hugo Gonzalez Nieto, MD, Distinguished Service Award  
Beatrice -- Kim Hill, PhD, LP, NCSP, Ambassador Award  
Scottsbluff -- Carrie Howton, PhD, LIMHP, Ambassador Award  
Omaha -- Marion Perry-Burse, Courage Award  
Omaha -- Havalynn Russell, Courage Award  
Lexington -- Ann Young, PMHNP, APRN, Champion Award  
Chadron -- Chelsea S. Turner, Champion Award



Congratulations to all our Annual Award winners!  
View the video online: <https://vimeo.com/512717578>

## A Nebraska Rancher's Behavioral Health Story - Ryan Sexson

Everybody thinks that ranching's kind of a simple occupation, but I'm a veterinarian, a welder, a fabricator, a mechanic, a caregiver, a father, and a husband. We wear a lot of hats, you have to be extremely diverse, and there's a lot of stress when you ranch. Not only is your family dependent upon you, but in my case, I care for a little over 1,000 animals. Their survival is dependent upon me every day. I have to make sure they're fed, their health is good and maintain equipment to keep them fed, pay the bills, figure out how to market and make all those things work.

Sometimes you manage the stress and take care of yourself and your family and sometimes you don't. You have to prioritize the immediate things first. The hard part is there's no part of that equation that's not immediate. You can't put off today and go to tomorrow because you'll get further behind. Truthfully, the thing that probably should be the most important goes to the back burner. Your animals take precedence over your family, and that's pretty tough.

Stress takes its toll because you get to a point where your day's overwhelming. You're trying to focus on doing specific things really well, then you're trying to do all of these things, and you don't do any of them well. Then pretty soon, you're in a hole. It becomes chaotic, and you get lost in the rat race.

Then everything declines. Your quality of time with your family, simple things like maintenance on your vehicles. You're like, "Well, I don't have time to change the oil on the car today." Pretty soon, you're 10,000 miles over an oil change and having issues. You didn't fix the tractor. The fence needed to be fixed. You've got cattle out, and instead of being able to take care of things you should be doing, you're playing catch up. It gets to a point where it's tough to get out of bed in the morning because you wonder what the hell the point of starting your day is since you can't get anything done right anyway.

There's such a stigma around counseling, trying to get help, especially in agriculture. We're so independent, and people are afraid of going to the "Quack" because it's like there's something really, seriously wrong with you, right? For me, that experience was a point of relief.

Although our family doctor's not a psychiatrist (he's a general practitioner), I was fortunate that he was aggressive. He said, "Well, this is pretty serious. We're going to get you help."

I can talk with my wife about anything, but there's a point where I feel like she is already aware of the problems I'm dealing with. When you go to counseling, you get someone else's perspective on the situation. It's a look in the mirror kind of deal instead of a "This is your fault situation." A counselor can be extremely blunt with you, and they don't have to ride home with you in the car and deal with you, day in and day out. Being able to sit and visit with somebody and have a meltdown and then have them put their hand on your shoulder and say, "Hey, it's all right," or hold your hand, or honestly, a hug works wonders.

At some point in my life, I became pretty aware of the real serious blessings in my life, but when you get to the point where you're distracted and struggling just to function, you can't think of those things. It was good to have somebody say, "You know, Ryan, you need to go home today and sit down and write five things about your day that are good." Then the next week say, "Well, write down ten, and I want you to do this every day."

We lose track of those things. Many times, it's just a matter of being able to bring your mind back, tune you back into reality, and remind you that you really do have value. Remind you of the good things in your life. There is always going to be some bad. There will always be stress, but it's good to have someone to help you find the good again.



# Budget

		FY 2019/20	
		Budget	Expenses
<b>Personnel</b>		\$504,892	\$522,650.95
<b>Operations</b>		\$1,287,974	\$1,068,126.11
<b>LB603 State Appropriation Total</b>		<b>\$1,792,866</b>	<b>\$1,590,777.06</b>

		FY 2020/21	
		Budget	Expenses
<b>Personnel</b>		\$715,619	\$705,906.98
<b>Operations</b>		\$980,766	\$959,044.51
<b>LB603 State Appropriation Total</b>		<b>\$1,696,385</b>	<b>\$1,664,951.49</b>

## External Funding\*

### State Funding

		FY 2019/20	FY 2020/21
<b>LB901</b>			\$548,000
<b>LB242</b>			\$779,789
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,327,789</b>

### Federal & Foundation Funding

		FY 2019/20	FY 2020/21
<b>HRSA-BHWET Grant</b>			\$550,543
<b>HRSA-BHWET Supplemental Grant</b>			\$200,000
<b>Mental Health Awareness Training Grant</b>			\$250,000
<b>Rural Communities Opioid Response Planning Grant</b>			\$200,000
<b>United Healthcare Foundation Grant</b>			\$250,000
<b>AmeriCorps Program</b>			\$212,553
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,663,096</b>

\*BHECN provides value by leveraging external funds to supplement its state support in workforce development.

## BHECN Executive Committee Members

**Sara Banzhaf, DNP, APRN-NP, PMHNP-BC**

Assistant Professor, PMHNP Track Leader  
Creighton University College of Nursing

**Rhonda Hawks**

The Hawks Foundation

**Christine Johnson**

Behavioral Health Support Foundation

**Rodney S. Markin, MD, PhD**

Associate Vice Chancellor for Business Development  
& Chief Technology Officer  
University of Nebraska Medical Center

**David H. Rubin, MD**

Interim Chair  
Department of Psychiatry  
Creighton University Medical Center

**Kathy Seacrest**

Regional Administrator  
Region II Human Services

**Steven Wengel, MD**

Professor  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of Nebraska Medical Center

**Marley Doyle, MD** *ex officio*

BHECN Director

**Katrina Cordts, PhD, LP** *ex officio*

BHECN Assoc. Director of Operations

## BHECN Advisory Council Members

**Aileen Brady**

Executive Vice President and COO, Community Alliance

**Nicole Carritt**

Director, Rural Health Initiatives

**Robin Conyers**

Division Vice President Behavioral Services, CHI Health

**Sheri Dawson**

Director, Division of Behavioral Health, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

**Sen. Jen Day**

Nebraska State Senator, Legislative District 49

**Greg Donovan**

Director, Society of Care

**Annette Dubas**

Executive Director, NABHO

**Joe Evans, PhD**

Professor, Department of Psychology, Munroe-Meyer Institute, UNMC

**Julia Hebenstreit, JD**

Executive Director, The Kim Foundation

**CJ Johnson**

Regional Administrator, Region 5

**Carrin Meadows**

Executive Director, NAMI Nebraska

**Tom Rauner**

Health Program Manager, Office of Rural Health, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

**Jamelyn (Jami) Foster**

Health Sciences Career Field Specialist, Nebraska Department of Education

# Current BHECN Staff Members (December 2021)

## BHECN Omaha

**Marley Doyle, MD**  
Director

**Christine L. Chasek, PhD, LIMHP, LADC, LPC**  
Associate Director of Workforce Development

\* **Erin Schneider**  
Associate Director of External Relations

\* **Jennifer Bull**  
Communications Coordinator

\* **Ann Kraft**  
Education & Outreach Specialist

\* **Cheryl Dressel-Wolff**  
Administrative Associate

**Katrina Cordts, PhD, LP**  
Associate Director of Operations

**Shinobu Watanabe-Galloway, PhD**  
Associate Director of Research

**Allison Grennan, PhD, LP**  
Assistant Director of Education

**Catrina Filkin**  
Grants and Project Associate

**Keith Anderson**  
Financial Analyst I

\* Denotes a Full-Time (100%) Employee.

## BHECN Rural Hubs

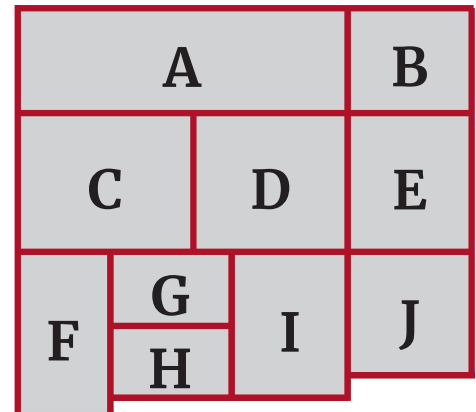
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## Cover Photos

- A: The Great Platte River Road Archway Monument | Kearney
- B: Migrating Sandhill Cranes | Farm along the Platte River
- C: Downtown Omaha Skyline | Omaha
- D: Dismal River in the Nebraska Sandhills | Nebraska National Forest
- E: Corn fields with wind turbines | Norfolk
- F: University of Nebraska - Memorial Stadium | Lincoln
- G: Toadstool Geologic Park | Oglala National Grassland
- H: Old windmill water pump at Chimney Rock | Morrill County
- I: Nebraska State Capitol Building | Lincoln
- J: Scottsbluff National Monument-Courthouse and Jail Rocks | Gering



# BHECN

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**For more information about BHECN, visit**  
[unmc.edu/bhecn](http://unmc.edu/bhecn)

Sources:

- 1 Nearly 1 in 5 Nebraskans have a mental illness. Source: "Key Substance Use and Mental Health Indicators in the United States: Results from the 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health." <https://bit.ly/1in5SAMHSAReport>
- 2 According to the HRSA website 88 counties in NE are designated as mental health Health Professions Shortage Areas (HPSA) Also see: State Shortage Areas Psychiatry and Mental Health (04-19).pdf (ne.gov) from Nebraska DHHS.
- 3 According to the most recent Nebraska BH workforce survey, 29 counties have no BH provider of any kind
- 4 [www.behavioralhealthworkforce.org](http://www.behavioralhealthworkforce.org) | Factors Impacting the Development of a Diverse Behavioral Health Workforce February 2017
- 5 For the FY 2020-2021 legislative report, the numbers were calculated: The numerator is from "State-Level Projections of Supply and Demand for BH Occupations: 2016-2030" report on HRSA website (45390 in table 1, 10250 in table 7, 1400 in table 9 and 92990 in table 11 ). The