



## Integrity Partners for Behavioral Health IPA

### Case for Membership

Integrity Partners for Behavioral Health (IPBH) was founded to unify and elevate the voice of rural behavioral health providers across New York State. Formed as the largest collaborative of its kind, IPBH brings together 14 Local Government Units and 7 Community-Based Organizations across 14 rural counties. This network was created to ensure rural communities are no longer left behind in data access, funding, and system transformation. Today, Integrity delivers unmatched value through groundbreaking initiatives like the Behavioral Health Data Analytics Collaborative (BHDAC), developed with the University at Buffalo. BHDAC produces customized CQI reports and conducts real-world research that identifies repeatable predictors of success across behavioral health systems. These insights not only improve outcomes and reduce costs but also inform smarter care delivery models. Members benefit from advanced tools like HIPAA-compliant data systems, peer support expansion, and a free CEU platform through NetCE—all at a fraction of what it would cost independently.

Looking ahead, the value Integrity brings will only continue to grow. With the infrastructure, credibility, and expertise already in place, IPBH is uniquely positioned to shift the behavioral health field from reactive to proactive. Rather than simply adapting to state mandates or payment model changes, IPBH members can now help *drive* those changes through data-informed advocacy, scalable best practices, and integrated care innovations. The network's growing ability to influence policy and clinical pathways—combined with its proven capacity to secure external funding and deliver billable services—ensures members will thrive under Medicaid redesign and value-based models. Simply put, the value of membership to Integrity Partners far exceeds its modest cost. It's not just a smart investment; it's a strategic move that positions rural providers to lead the future of behavioral health in New York State.

### Top 5 Most Compelling Values of Integrity Partners Behavioral Health Network Membership

Integrity Partners for Behavioral Health (IPBH) is the largest rural behavioral health collaborative in New York State, bringing together 14 LGUs and 7 CBOs across 14 counties. For a modest annual membership fee, organizations gain access to powerful tools, statewide influence, and sustainability strategies that far outweigh the cost of participation. The five most compelling benefits of membership include:

- **Behavioral Health Data Analytics Collaborative (BHDAC):**  
IPBH's partnership with the University at Buffalo enables members to access a first-of-its-kind data warehouse that delivers CQI reports, supports predictive analytics, and allows members to participate in ethical, real-world research—all designed to improve outcomes, personalize care, and reduce costs.

- **Grant-Backed Peer Support and Billable Services:**  
IPBH has secured over \$650,000 in grants to expand peer services, with several programs now Medicaid-billable. Peer advocates help ensure smoother transitions post-hospitalization and strengthen community-based care continuity.
- **Training, Tools, and Technical Assistance:**  
Members receive access to no-cost CEUs through NetCE, MAT and peer workforce training, financial modeling with Freed Maxick, and structured peer learning through “Integrity Conversations,” all of which reduce reliance on costly external consultants.
- **Policy Influence and System Leadership:**  
Recognized by OMH and OASAS as a statewide model, IPBH empowers rural providers to shape rather than react to policy. BHDAC findings inform state legislation and funding, giving members a critical role in influencing behavioral health reform.
- **Exceptional Return on Investment:**  
With dues ranging from just \$5,000 to \$10,000 annually, members receive access to robust data infrastructure, grant opportunities, VBP preparation, and technical tools—making IPBH membership not an expense, but a strategic investment in clinical, financial, and operational success.

## Conclusion

IPBH offers a scalable, sustainable solution for rural providers. By joining or remaining a member, organizations position themselves to lead, innovate, and thrive in an increasingly data-driven and integrated behavioral health landscape.

# Expanded Value Proposition

## Unmatched Value for Rural Behavioral Health

- **Largest collaborative of its kind in rural NYS:** Combines 14 Local Government Units (LGUs) and 7 Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) serving 14 rural counties.
- **Unified voice for rural providers:** Amplifies rural behavioral health priorities at the state level through coordinated advocacy, research, and outcomes reporting.

## Data-Driven, Outcomes-Focused Care

- **Home of the Behavioral Health Data Analytics Collaborative (BHDAC):** A groundbreaking data warehouse in partnership with the University at Buffalo's top ranked School of Social Work and School of Public Health and Health Professions to guide personalized care, improve outcomes, and reduce costs.
- **First-of-its-kind infrastructure:** Uses real-world provider data to pinpoint what works—and what doesn't—resulting in smarter, more efficient behavioral health delivery.

## Innovations that Drive Policy and Practice

- **Evidence-based models:** FBT pilot project with the potential to show 8x better outcomes for adolescents with SUD compared to traditional care—estimated savings to NYS of nearly \$487M.
- **Research-backed insights:** Findings from >500,000 appointment records show how telehealth affects no-show rates, helping to guide clinical best practices in rural regions.
- **Customized CQI reports:** Equip each member agency to improve services and justify external funding and grant applications, saving Partner's the high expense of contracting with data vendors.

## Tools, Training, and Technical Assistance

- **Ongoing education:** Includes MAT and peer training programs, financial modeling with Freed Maxick, and a free CEU platform through NetCE.
- **Integrity Conversations:** Facilitate cross-agency learning to replicate successful practices and respond to pressing challenges (e.g., hospital discharges, SUD outcomes).

## High Standards of Data Security and Ethics

- **HIPAA-compliant infrastructure:** Secure, de-identified data transfer protocols with third-party audits by Bonadio Group.
- **IRB-approved research:** Ensures ethical standards while allowing real-world EHR data analysis without needing individual patient consent—saving time and resources.

## Sustainability and Cost-Efficiency

- **Efficient use of member dues:** Modest fees (\$5K–\$10K/year) yield network-wide benefits and unlock access to grants, technical tools, and VBP preparation strategies.
- **External funding success:** Secured over \$650K in grants to expand peer services and integrated care—results that increase billable services and system efficiency.
- **Prepares providers for Value-Based Payment OR Alternative Payment models:** Readies organizations to thrive under Medicaid redesign and future reimbursement reforms.

## Impact That's Visible—and Growing

- **Growing provider participation:** The number of committed partners is expanding, reinforcing the value and reach of the network.
- **Recognized by NYS agencies:** OMH and OASAS view IPBH's data integration approach as the model for future behavioral health infrastructure.
- **Excellence in Research**, University at Buffalo, School of Social Work, Community Partner, 2023
- **Supports policy decisions:** Legislators can leverage BHDAC data to craft smarter laws, allocate resources effectively, and demonstrate the impact of public investment.

## Stronger Linkages Between Primary and Behavioral Health Care

### Integrated, Whole-Person Care Models in Action

- **Created best-practice models that link behavioral health (BH) with primary care (PC):** Through initiatives like the IPBH-OASAS MAT & FLPPS grant and Family Behavior Therapy pilots, IPBH demonstrates how integrated approaches lead to faster, more effective care.
- **Improved post-hospital follow-ups:** New quality matrix tracks and improves BH provider relationships with local hospitals, increasing follow-up care rates and preventing costly readmissions.
- **Peer services bridge the gap:** Trained peer advocates now support transitions between hospital discharge, behavioral health care, and community-based services—improving continuity and reducing client drop-off.

### Clinical Integration That Works

- **Family Behavioral Therapy integration:** Coordinated behavioral treatment with parent involvement has improved both BH outcomes and medical compliance among adolescents—illustrating that when BH improves, so does physical health.
- **Collaborative protocols with SDOH providers:** IPBH's CQI tools identify gaps in care and coordinate referrals across physical, behavioral, and social services, addressing full-spectrum health needs.

## Sustainable Systems That Save Lives—and Dollars

- **Billing and reimbursement capacity expanded:** New MH peer programs developed under system transformation grants are now Medicaid-billable, ensuring long-term financial viability and continued care linkages.
- **Prevention-driven savings:** Early behavioral intervention tied to physical health needs reduces emergency department use and downstream costs.

## Summary

Funding member dues for Integrity Partners is not a cost—it's an investment in a proven, data-driven, statewide infrastructure that saves money, saves lives, and makes rural behavioral health smarter, stronger, and more sustainable.

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