



Carl Clark, M.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Mental Health Center of Denver

Dr. Carl Clark's early experience with his father's bipolar disorder sparked a commitment to helping people with mental illness regain their lives, dreams and aspirations. As Chief Executive Officer of the Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD) he leads the organization in "focusing on what people can do, not what they can't do." Dr. Clark believes people with mental illness can recover and has dedicated his career to delivering quality mental health services to people with mental illness.

Dr. Clark is a recognized community mental health leader in Colorado as well as nationally.

Under Dr. Clark's visionary leadership MHCD was awarded the 2010 SAMHSA Science and Service Award, 2009 SAMHSA Science and Service Award, 2009 Colorado Environmental Leadership Program Bronze Award, 2009 CBHC Golden Abacus Award, 2006 Denver Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Business Social Responsibility Award and 2005 NCCBH Community Provider of Excellence Award. MHCD offers a complete system of innovative care with a spectrum of supportive services. MHCD reaches out into the community and brings services to the consumer.

Over ten years ago Dr. Clark challenged MHCD to be a Center of Excellence with the best mental health services in the country. In recent years he has led the way in using strengths-based and recovery-focused treatment and services at MHCD. The organization created and utilizes validated instruments to measure mental health recovery and identify patterns to further understand the recovery process. This groundbreaking research is being adopted by other mental health centers in the United States and internationally.

Dr. Clark inspires MHCD to foster a culture of wellness among staff, consumers and the Denver community. He commissioned a Together Green Team, Organizational Wellness Culture Committee and Health & Wellness Committee, and coaches MHCD managers to live the organization's Wellness Culture statement. Dr. Clark lives the principles of sustainability. As an avid cyclist, kayaker and skier, he champions physical wellness activities. He also supported implementation of smoke-free properties and revolutionized MHCD's employee supervision and coaching process to be based upon employee strengths.

The Bonfils-Stanton Foundation named Dr. Clark one of five Livingston Fellows in 2008. As a Livingston fellow, Dr. Clark attended the People to People delegation in Rwanda and met with community leaders, mental health providers and victims of genocide in August 2008. He gained a valuable experience in assessing the availability of services from a national perspective as well as seeing the impact of a major crisis (genocide) in a country.

Dr. Clark distinguishes himself in the area of public policy. He recently was invited to serve on the Steering Committee for the SAMHSA/HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions. He currently serves on the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare (NCCBH) and Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council (CBHC) boards. Dr. Clark works diligently to connect with elected and appointed officials. By maintaining bipartisan support for mental health services, he has been able to work within legislative bodies to advance the need for mental health treatment. In the past he has been called upon as an expert by the American Psychiatric Association, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, National Mental Health Association and National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors.

Dr. Clark's leadership in Colorado is evidenced by his extensive community involvement and MHCD's partnerships and collaborations with other community organizations. He serves on the Metro Crisis Services board of directors, metro Denver's regional system of crisis intervention. Additionally, Dr. Clark is an Assistant Clinical Professor for the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, member of the Denver Drug Strategy Commission and board member of the Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved. Dr. Clark has served as co-chair of the Mayor's HIV/AIDS Planning Council for Ryan White Funds and been appointed to the Governor's AIDS Council and Denver Healthy People 2010.

Dr. Clark's colleagues and the Denver community widely recognize his contributions. His awards include: the Denver Regional Council of Governments Distinguished Service Award, one of Denver's 150 Unsung Heroes Making a Difference, the 2008 Samaritan Institute Award, the 2006 Outstanding Achievement Award from the Colorado Psychiatric Society, the 2000 Professional Man of the Year from the Colorado Business Council and the 1993 Exemplary Psychiatrist of the Year from the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

Dr. Clark joined MHCD in 1989, became the Medical Director in 1991 and then the Chief Executive Officer in 2000.