CCBHC Risk Management Advantages and Most Likely Claims

Do CCBHCs have risk management advantages?

The best risk management, the best way to stay out of lawsuits, is to provide high quality care at every step of the process from the initial intake and risk assessment to ongoing treatment and prevention activities.

CCBHCs have advantages in providing excellent quality care because of activities and services such as expanded care coordination (organizing patient care activities and sharing information), adequate quality staffing requirements, increased accessibility of services at convenient times and places for consumers, and commitment to family involvement as essential for consumer care.

Our work litigating claims against behavioral health-care providers and the practice analysis we do in our Individualized Risk Management Program make it clear that obtaining adequate information is especially important in providing good quality care. CCBHC's care coordination activities and commitment to family involvement make it more likely that intervention, treatment, and prevention decisions will be made with sufficient information.

What kinds of claims or lawsuits should a CCBHC expect?

Of course, a CCBHC's core activity is to provide quality behavioral healthcare. Claims and lawsuits occur when a client or another person is injured and there is reason to believe a breach of the standard of care caused or contributed to the cause of the injury. Because the core activities of CCBHCs are the same they are likely to experience the same types of claims as other behavioral healthcare providers.

For more than 50 years the most frequent claims against behavioral healthcare providers have been in the same five categories:

(1) sexual misconduct by clients and staff,
(2) client violence against others,
(3) suicide malpractice,
(4) medication errors, and
(5) employment practices.

Sexual misconduct claims are always the most frequent.