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Trump: US will pull out of Russia nuke pact

President says intermediate range deal was violated

By Zeke Miller and Michael Balsamo
The Associated Press

ELKO, Nevada — President Donald Trump said Saturday he will pull the United States from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty because Russia has violated the agreement, but provided no details on the violations.

The 1987 pact, which helps protect the security of the U.S. and its allies in Europe and the Far East, prohibits the United States and Russia from possessing, producing or test-flying a ground-launched cruise missile with a range of 300 to 3,400 miles.

“Russia has violated the agreement. They have been violating it for many years,” Trump said after a rally in Elko, Nevada. “And we’re not going to let them violate a nuclear agreement and go out and do weapons and we’re not allowed to.”

The agreement has constrained the U.S. from developing new weapons, but America will begin developing them unless Russia and China agree not to possess or develop the weapons, Trump said. China is not currently party to the pact.

“We’ll have to develop those weapons, unless Russia comes to us and China comes to us and they all come to us and say let’s really get smart and let’s none of us develop those weapons, but if Russia’s doing it and if China’s doing it, and we’re adhering to the agreement, that’s unacceptable,” he said.

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‘No walls’ to treatment



From left, Gustavo Mejia, director of addiction recovery services, Dr. Adriana Torres-O'Connor, director of behavioral health in Burlington County, and Drew Wisloski, who heads the PACT programs, hold a meeting at their Delaware House in Westampton.

[PHOTOS BY NANCY ROKOS / STAFF PHOTOJOURNALIST]



ABOVE: Dr. Adriana Torres-O'Connor, director of behavioral health in Burlington County, gives a tour of the Delaware House in Westampton. BELOW: Drew Wisloski, the psychosocial rehabilitation director at the Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton, travels throughout Burlington County to help those in need.



New model for behavioral health care coming to Burlington County

By Kelly Kultys
kkultys@thebct.com
@kellykultys

WESTAMPTON — Lawrence V. wasn’t sure where to go after spending almost 15 years of his life struggling with hard drugs.

“I had burned a lot of bridges in my using days and I couldn’t go to anybody anymore,” he said. “The only people that never gave up on me were my mom and my grandmother, but everybody else had.”

Lawrence, who declined to provide his last name, had been to a variety of treatment programs, but none of them seemed to stick. His mother, however, was determined to get him help, and she came across Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton, which serves Burlington, Mercer, Ocean and Monmouth counties, where it offers a wide variety of services for mental health and addiction needs.

For Lawrence, a range of programs from medication-assisted treatment to employment help was exactly what he needed.

He is one of about 580 patients that were served through a new model of care at Catholic Charities known as Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic, or CCBHC, which will soon come to Burlington County.

“My life has really turned around,” he said. “I was in shambles before and now I’m getting a job and starting to get back on my feet again.”

New beginnings

The CCBHC model was implemented at the nonprofit’s headquarters in Mercer County in July 2017 after funding became available through the Excellence in Mental Health Act Demonstration program.

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HEALTH

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The model is designed to create an initiative to expand access to mental health and addiction care within communities, according to the National Council for Behavioral Health. It started as a two-year, eight-state program, which included New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Oklahoma and Oregon. The initiative is expected to add more than \$1.1 billion into community-based programs across the country for people with mental health and addiction services, according to the National Council for Behavioral Health.

The CCBHCs are a new provider type in Medicaid and will receive an enhanced rate of reimbursement based on anticipated costs of the additional services offered through the model, according to the National Council. However, patients with insurance, no insurance or those on Medicaid are accepted into the clinics.

“It’s a no walls, open access model to behavioral health care as well as addictions treatment for adults and then also there’s a component for children, for serious emotional disorders that have a diagnosis of a serious emotional disorder and then also for veterans with (post-traumatic stress disorder),” said Susan Loughery, director of operations for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton.

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton is one of seven providers in the state chosen to participate in the program, and one of just three that received expansion funding announced earlier this year.

The funding, \$4 million over two years, will allow the group to expand the care model to Burlington County, with a centralized hub at the nonprofit’s Delaware House in Westampton, Loughery said.

The model itself

In order to operate a CCBHC, providers must either have nine specific services to address underserved populations, or contract with another group to provide assistance, according to the National Council.

- Services include:
- 24/7 crisis mental health services.
 - Screening, assessment and diagnosis including risk assessment.
 - Patient-centered treatment planning or similar processes.
 - Outpatient mental health and substance use services.
 - Outpatient clinic primary care screening and monitoring.
 - Targeted case management.
 - Psychiatric rehabilitation services.
 - Peer support, counselor services and family supports.
 - Intensive, community-based mental health care for members of the armed forces and veterans.

The expansion into Burlington County will allow Catholic Charities to add a crisis access-point, more medical transportation and services to veterans, officials said.



Candace Ortiz, of Willingboro, works as an administrative assistant for the Delaware House Outpatient Department.
[PHOTOS BY NANCY ROKOS / STAFF PHOTO-JOURNALIST]



Leonard Newton, of Cinnaminson, handles the transportation for clients attending the Delaware House.

“Here, we will be actually expanding our crisis service — our early intervention support services because there is no easy access crisis service in Burlington County,” said Dr. Adriana Torres-O’Connor, director of behavioral health services. “We have a service in Mercer, but we’ll be able to provide a crisis service for individuals here so it’s an alternative to going to the hospital, which a lot of people feel more comfortable doing — our crisis service has a very home-like environment.”

Torres-O’Connor said the access point can be the most critical for a patient in crisis, so the ability for the nonprofit to offer almost all of the services for a person in need can lend them to a more successful outcome.

“Someone who’s on their own without support services is in a difficult situation,” said Drew Wisloski, head of the Program of Assertive Community Treatment for Catholic Charities. “With wraparound services, we can address any number of needs, from socialization to employment, housing, so forth; without that support, an individual who’s seeking help may not know where to begin.”

The nonprofit has offered these types of services previously — from mental health care to medication-assisted treatment to primary care to housing and shelter needs — but they usually operated separately, Torres-O’Connor said.

“Prior to CCBHC, things

were very siloed in terms of only being able to receive one type of service,” she said. “But CCBHC is a no-walls model of care. So you’re able to get all the services that you need at one time.”

Specific targets in Burlington County

In Burlington County, Torres-O’Conner said the group plans to reach two specific underserved populations with expansion funding: those struggling with addiction and veterans.

In New Jersey, the CCBHC requires providers to offer medication-assisted treatment to help curb a person’s need to use as well as ambulatory detox to clear substances from a person’s system, Loughery said.

“We have our outpatient detox program, medication-assisted treatment, with medication that can really help some of these individuals that maybe haven’t been as successful with traditional models, to really engage in care now that this will be available to them in the community,” said Gustavo Mejia, director of addiction recovery services for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton.

Officials also are planning to target the county’s large veteran population to address needs slipping through the cracks, Loughery said.

“There’s a significant veteran population in Burlington County that we’ll now be



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able to work directly with the (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs) on providing services and filling in the gaps for the VA system and the access to the VA system by providing services like transportation for veterans,” Loughery said.

But transportation issues aren’t limited to veterans, as others in Burlington County have found it difficult to reach the services they need, officials said.

“There is a huge deficit in transportation in Burlington, especially on the eastern side,” Torres-O’Connor said. “The transportation will be able to expand so that we’re able to provide medical transportation to these individuals to help get them to mental health and addiction services.”

Finding results

While it’s in its infancy in Burlington County, the program has been in effect since July in Mercer County. Torres-O’Conner said the group will use what it learned there to help it succeed in Burlington.

“It’s very exciting because with the year we’ve had under our belts at this point we’ve

really seen an impact in the reduction of hospitalizations for individuals and that’s both in physical medicine as well as in psychiatric hospitalizations which is amazing because that really impacts someone’s well-being,” she said. “It also has a huge cost savings.”

Because the program also offers wraparound services, such as help with employment and housing, clients have been able to get back on their feet quicker, Torres-O’Conner said.

“We’ve seen a significant increase in individuals who have struggled to find and maintain employment and we’ve had greater success with that as well,” she said.

Lawrence, who was one of the clients to benefit from the CCBHC model, said he hopes others will follow in his footsteps.

“I try to build things around structure and this is a very structured facility,” he said. “Knowing that I could come here and see the psychiatrist or see my counselor for anything ... so any problem that I had during that day, or any day, they could help me in some way, somebody could help me here.”

Leonard Newton, assistant director of transportation at the Delaware House, checks locations where clients need a ride.



The medical suite waiting room at the Delaware House.