

LOCAL PROVIDER COMPLETES ADVANCED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING THROUGH STATE GRANT

“Brandy will continue providing the services patients have come to know and trust, while now expanding her role to include behavioral health. All appointment services are available for the community.”

“In addition to her regular services, Brandy Wallin is now taking behavioral health appointments in Benkelman, Wauneta, and Imperial.”

A significant step forward in expanding access to behavioral health care in rural Nebraska has been achieved through the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) / Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN) Grant.

The grant was designed with a clear mission: to increase access to behavioral health services in primary care settings across rural Nebraska and to support clinics in adopting integrated behavioral health practices. One key focus of the program is strengthening the rural healthcare workforce by expanding the skillsets of existing providers.

Through this grant, Family Nurse Practitioners (FNPs) and Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (PNPs) were given the opportunity to pursue advanced training to become Psychiatric Mental Health Practitioners (PMHNPs). The program includes 16 months of didactic coursework, totaling 20 graduate credits, along with 540 hours supervised clinical training. Upon completion, participants earn a Post-Graduate Certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing, qualifying them to sit for the national PMHNP certification exam.

Thanks to this grant opportunity, Brandy Wallin completed the Post-Master’s Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing program through the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), graduating in May 2025. National certification through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) was achieved in September 2025.

Once fully integrated into practice, this advanced certification will allow Brandy to serve patients as a dually certified primary care and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, bringing comprehensive, whole-person care to area communities.

This achievement represents more than an individual milestone; it is an investment in the future of rural healthcare. By expanding behavioral health services within primary care, patients can receive timely, coordinated care closer to home, where it has always been needed most.

This training enhances Brandy’s role as an APRN, allowing her to provide specialized psychiatric mental health care along with the primary care services she already offers.

To schedule an appointment at one of our convenient locations call Quality Healthcare Clinic at 308-423-2151.