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## New Podcast Series Asks Listeners to Make the Mental Health “Hard Call”

Real-life story presents ethical challenges doctors, loved ones and colleagues face

Aurora, Colo., June 29 – Some of today’s toughest human challenges play out in health care, when patients, professionals and loved ones face choices and the answer may be unclear. [Hard Call](#), a podcast series now available in [iTunes](#) and [Google Play](#), follows the true story of a life derailed by mental illness, and of the people involved who have had to make heart-wrenching decisions. In a unique twist, it asks listeners to cast votes on what they would do if faced with the same situation.

[Hard Call](#) brings together creative minds in health care, radio and theater. It is a collaboration between [Matthew Wynia, MD, MPH](#), director of the [CU Center for Bioethics and Humanities](#) at the Anschutz Medical Campus, [Elaine Appleton Grant](#), an experienced journalist and public radio producer, and the Denver-area theater community. Grant and Wynia co-host the series.

“Our first story this season is likely to shake up stereotypes about mental illness,” said Dr. Wynia.

The National Behavioral Health Innovation Center consulted on the first in a series of stories on [Hard Call](#) titled “Derailed: When Mental Illness Throws a Life Off Track.”

“This podcast is an out-of-the-box way to engage people in a dialogue about mental health, which fits well with our Center’s approach of working with unusual partners in unexpected ways,” said [Peggy Hill](#), deputy director, NBHIC. “We are delighted to support [Hard Call](#).”

“Derailed” follows a wealthy entrepreneur living with a serious mental illness through five challenging episodes, asking questions like “Would you hospitalize this man against his will?” and “Should he tell his business associates about his illness?”

“Unlike other podcasts in which listeners are passive audience members, [Hard Call](#) actively brings listeners into the story,” said Grant, who has been a reporter and producer for major public radio outlets in Colorado, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. “We use documentary tape of real patients, supplemented by professional actors for dramatizations, and we ask the audience to make their own choices and post their thoughts online before revealing what really happens next.”

Each [Hard Call](#) episode ends with a difficult choice facing one person in the story and the provocative question, “What would you do?” Listeners are asked to vote on the [Hard Call website](#). They can also see how others voted and join the discussion online.

*Hard Call* is made possible by the [CU Center for Bioethics and Humanities](#), with support from the [Colorado Health Foundation](#) and the [Community First Foundation](#).

### ABOUT THE NATIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INNOVATION CENTER

The National Behavioral Health Innovation Center was established in 2016 with a mission to find, develop and put in to practice big new ideas to prevent, treat and change the way people think about mental illness. As part of the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, NBHIC has a unique role in connecting academic research, patient treatment and industry innovation to accelerate mental health solutions that have significant impact for patients and entire communities.

[www.behavioralhealthinnovation.org](http://www.behavioralhealthinnovation.org)