



ONE-ON-ONE
6

HAPKE

WHERE THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY MEETS

Colorado Springs BUSINESS JOURNAL

csbj.com | @CSBizJournal



OLD STAGE

8

ROAD

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 25 | Sept. 16 - 22, 2022 | \$2.00

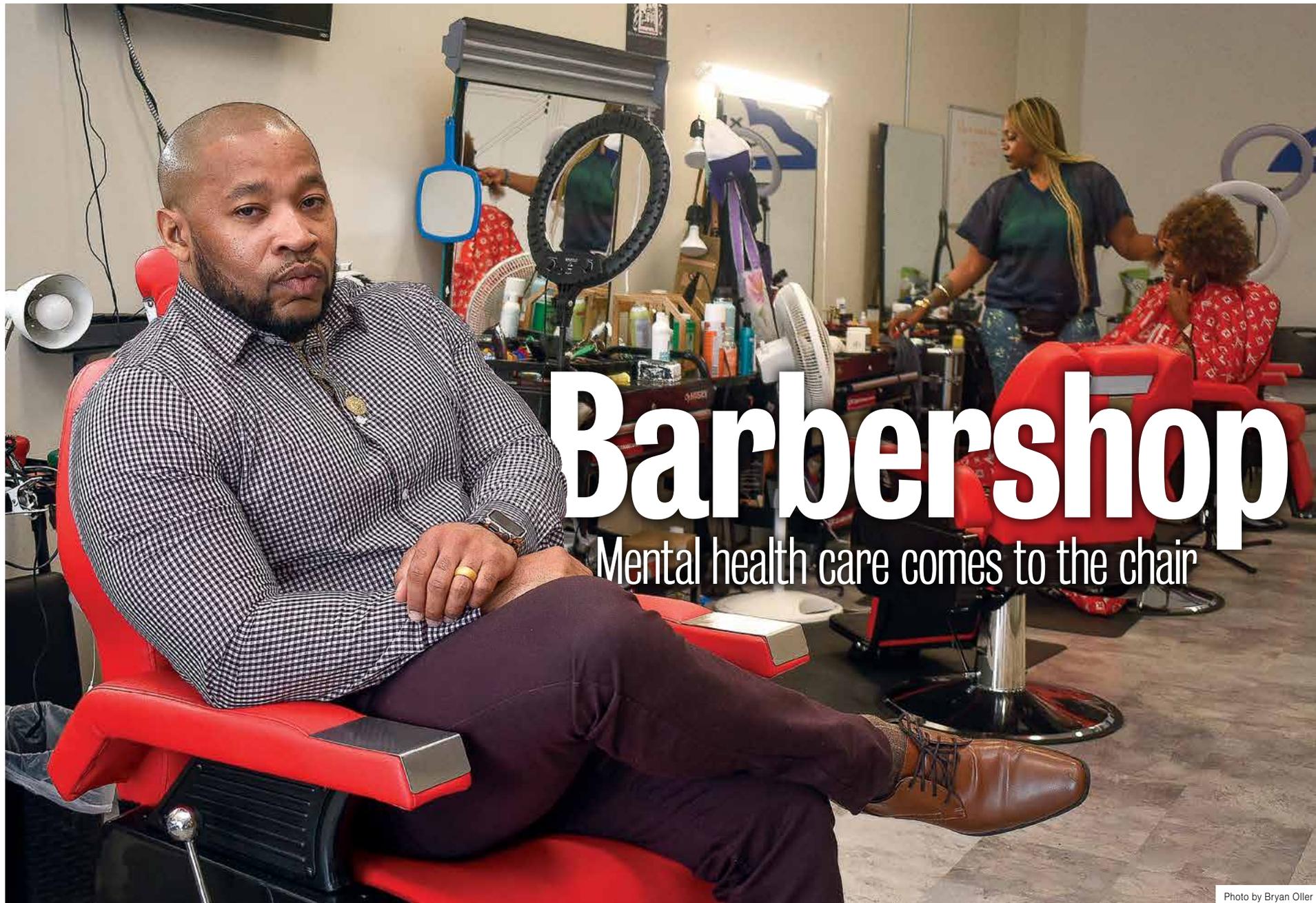


Photo by Bryan Oller

Barbershop

Mental health care comes to the chair

CommunityWorks leader Jaquin Mobley is getting barbers formal training in mental health support so they can build on the trust and connection they have with their clients, and offer better care.

By Anna Fiorino

When Jaquin Mobley's family immigrated to America from the Dominican Republic to build a life in New York City, the first place they went for support was the barbershop. Historically, the barbershop has been somewhere to get a haircut, yes — but more importantly it's served as a refuge, a space to speak freely; a place for connection, solidarity, community.

The barbershop's deeper meaning and role in society "is something that I hold near and dear to my heart," says Mobley, the senior vice president of innovation and strategy at CommunityWorks. "I just wanted to

refine it a little bit."

So Mobley's latest effort is to give the barbers at CommunityWorks formal training in mental health support, so they can offer clients a deeper level of care.

Mobley describes CommunityWorks' barbershop as the organization's "port of entry" — its barbers are already involved in peer recovery coaching, assessing their clients' needs and potentially directing them to CommunityWorks programs that help them get job instruction and placement, life skills training, professional clothing, transportation, business connections and other support.

"One thing I learned growing up in the barbershop, whether I was here or in New York, was that every-

thing that happened in our community — the good, the bad, the ugly — it comes through the barbershop," Mobley said during a Black Chamber of Commerce tour of CommunityWorks' Springs headquarters. "What we wanted to do was leverage that in a positive way."

Since 1995, CommunityWorks has been helping people with barriers to employment — and those who have been justice-involved — to find meaningful work. The nonprofit has locations in Colorado Springs, Denver, Aurora and Pueblo, where clients come for mentorship and personalized coaching, and to connect with services, training and therapy.

See **Barbers** page 12



DEI AWARDS

We're celebrating a more diverse, equitable and inclusive Pikes Peak region.



INSIDE

Hazlehurst on Sam Guadagnoli	3
Focus: Real Estate (left)	10
The List	21
People on the Move	22
CityBits	23
Other Voices	23
Business Leads	24



EDITORIAL: WHAT LEVEL PLAYING FIELD? 2