Title: One Model of Integrating Mental Health Care into a Pediatric Resident Group Practice

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Background: 1 in 5 youth are afflicted with a mental health (MH) disorder and MH problems are the leading cause of impairments in children; yet the majority of children do not receive appropriate treatment. MH care needs to be integrated into pediatric primary care, yet pediatricians are not prepared to do so. Increased collaboration between primary care pediatricians (PCPs) and MH professionals is needed to better prepare the future workforce

Aims: Describe a resident continuity clinic that uses an integrated MH model of care.

Methods: The continuity clinic at the main academic center at an urban institute developed an integrated model of MH care using an interdisciplinary team. There are 40 pediatric residents, 10 faculty members, a social worker, a psychiatric nurse practitioner (PNP), a care coordinator, and community health workers. This practice screens for trauma, psychosocial risk factors, and emotional and behavioral health problems at every well child visit. The PNP's role is to: advise on evaluation and management of MH problems, model difficult conversations with families, provide short term treatment for children within the practice, and co-manage patients with PCPs. He is also involved in formal and informal teaching for residents and faculty members.

Results: Over 150 children were evaluated since the inception of the program and approximately 50% of patients have been screened. Rigorous evaluation of this program is in the beginning stages. It will look at resident behaviors, rates of recognition, and family satisfaction with care.

Conclusions: It is feasible to create an integrated MH program in a resident training continuity clinic and caring for children with MH problems collaboratively has increased patient engagement and completion of referrals. It has begun to change culture amongst providers making MH an integral part of well child visits.

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