

TACKLING OHIO'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

All Ohioans should have ready access to patient-centered behavioral health care services. Mental health and addiction providers work collaboratively, and with innovative approaches, to meet the growing need in all parts of the state.

MEET THE TEAM

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS



- Lead the collaborative medical team; assist patient through all services
- Know the patient's total health, and focus on wellness and prevention
- Education: undergraduate degree (which includes bio-medical courses); medical school with clinical rotations and internships; four years of medical residency

11 years minimum training

PSYCHIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES/PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS



- Collaborate with psychiatric & primary care physicians
- Diagnose, examine, treat, and with additional training, prescribe medications (APRNs have a collaborative agreement with a physician; PAs have a supervision agreement with a physician)
- Education: undergraduate degree (which includes bio-medical courses); and graduate degree (APRNs)

6 years minimum training

PSYCHIATRIC PHYSICIANS



- Lead behavioral health care specialty, with attention to patient's entire medical history
- Prescribe psychotropic medications for adults and children and provide mental health therapy and counseling
- Treat individuals with mental illnesses, including addiction disorders
- Education: undergraduate degree (including bio-medical courses) medical school w/clinical rotations & internships; 4 years of residency for training specific to mental and physical disease; add'l 2-4 years if choosing subspecialty practice

12 years minimum training

PSYCHOLOGISTS



- Provide psychotherapy and treat emotional and mental suffering in patients
- Conduct psychological testing
- Education: four-year undergraduate, graduate degree for training on psychological assessments and psychotherapy, followed by coursework toward a PhD or PsyD (no required pre-requisites in biomedical courses)

8 years minimum training

SOCIAL WORKERS



- Provide therapy, behavioral health services treatment referrals, behavioral health services referrals and follow up for families and individuals
- Know available programs and services, eligibility requirements and fees
- Education: undergraduate degree in social work or related field and often complete Masters of Social Work degree

6 years minimum training

LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS



- Work with individuals, families, and groups to diagnose and treat behavioral, emotional and addictive disorders
- Education: undergraduate and graduate degrees for studies in mental illness, substance abuse disorders, and therapy practices with two years of supervised practice

6 years minimum training

Innovation is the Playbook!

Ohio's patient-centered collaborative model of care uses innovative approaches to meet the demand in rural and urban communities:

- Utilizing telemedicine (including tele-psychiatry) to connect people with mental health and addiction treatment services anywhere in the state
- Establishing more integrated/collaborative models of care between primary care physicians and psychiatrists to expand care and treatment
- Increasing the number of highly trained APRNs (in collaboration with a physician) and PAs (under supervision by a physician) to prescribe behavioral health medications

UPON FURTHER REVIEW!



Proposals such as Ohio House Bill 326, which seeks to expand prescribing authority to psychologists with an insufficient plan for training, are not in the best interests of Ohioans. To improve and expand behavioral health care in Ohio, the best solutions promote patient safety and maintain the collaborative approach to care. Through additional training as an APRN or PA, psychologists already have a safe and proven path to prescribing.