

Adding a primary care consultant to a community mental health center.

S. MacLaurin,^{1,2} T. Baggett^{2,3,4}, C. Mulligan^{1,2}, K. Schnitzer^{1,2,4}, B. Macri^{1,2}, B. Pantone^{1,2}, M. U. Van Alphen^{1,2,4}, O. Freudenreich^{1,2,4}
North Suffolk Mental Health Associations, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program, Harvard Medical School

Background

High need: 28 year decreased life expectancy.

Cardiovascular disease, cancer, and respiratory illness are the leading cause of death, not suicide.

Integrated care, the bringing together of psychiatric and physical care, began in the primary care setting. Algorithm driven care of depression has been the focus.

Reverse integrated care (RIC) brings physical health care into psychiatry, typically community mental health centers.

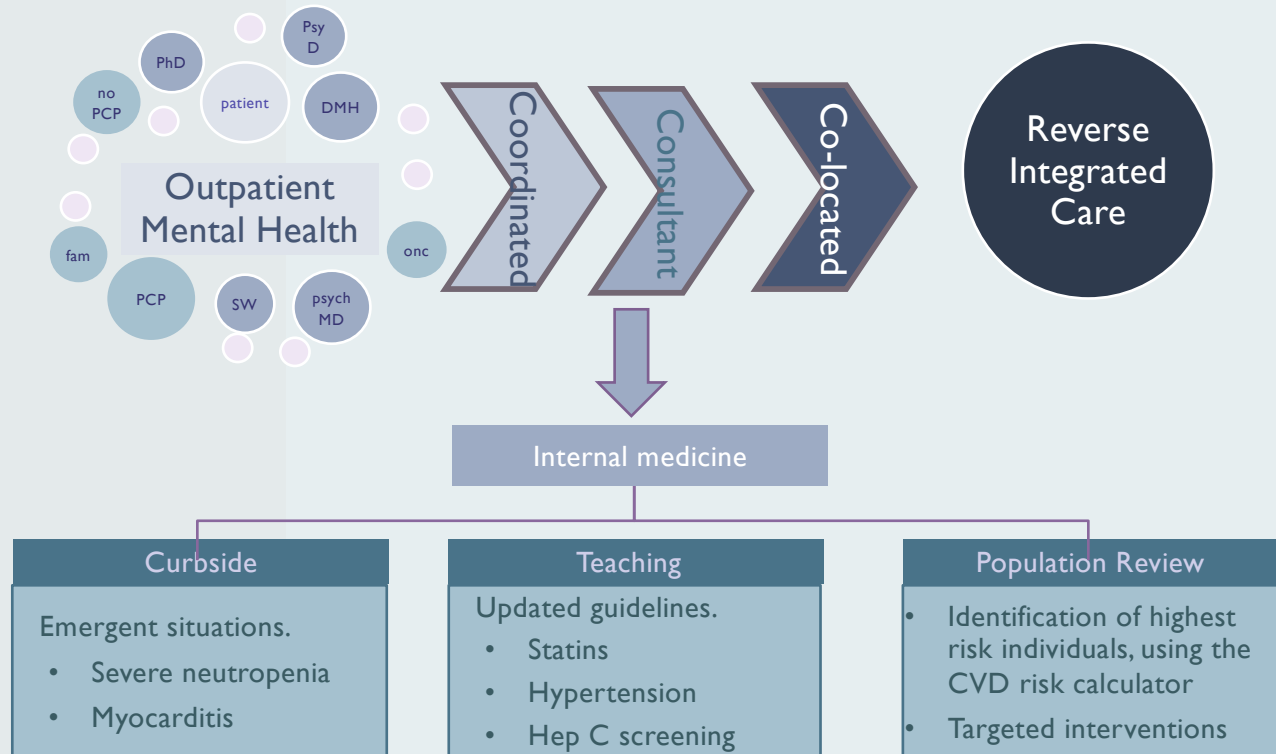
Who's Involved

North Suffolk Mental Health Association's Freedom Trail Clinic.

Clozapine clinic sub-population of approximately 200 patients has been our focus.

A medical secretary manages an invaluable organizational structure.

Dr. Travis Baggett, an internist with MGH and Boston Healthcare for the Homeless, provides clinical guidance and education to our team.



What we're doing

During monthly med-psych rounds, we:

- review metabolic labs from our population-based clozapine registry.
- discuss watchful waiting versus intervention of patients without primary care providers.
- learn about relevant topics, such as guidelines for statins, screening for hepatitis, and blood dyscrasias.

Additionally, Dr. Baggett provides curbside consultation for emergent questions.

What we've learned

A better understanding of how to "think like a PCP" improves communication with patients, their PCPs, and specialists.

Where we're going

Aiming for time of an internal medicine physician or NP or PA for onsite clinical care.

Full integration of medical records.

Pursuit of expanded funding from the federal government to become a Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHC).

References:

- 1) Ward M, Druss B: Reverse Integration Initiatives for Individuals With Serious Mental Illness. *Focus (Am Psychiatr Publ)*. Summer 2017; 15(3): 271-278.
- 2) Sautter Errichetti K, Ramirez MM, Flynn A, Xuan Z. A reverse colocated integrated care model intervention among persons with severe persistent mental illness at the U.S.-Mexico border: A randomized controlled trial protocol. *Contemp Clin Trials Commun*. 2019;16:100490. Published 2019 Nov 12. doi:10.1016/j.conctc.2019.100490