

The Need for Cross-Sectorial Partnerships to Address Growing Behavioral Health Workforce Challenges

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Unmet Need + Prolonged Wait Times Avoidable National Crisis



Our Behavioral Health Treatment System is Overwhelmed



- The demand for behavioral health services has increased significantly in recent years.
- The existing treatment system is struggling to keep up with the evergrowing demand.
- Limited resources and funding further exacerbate the challenges faced by the system.
- In order to address these challenges, innovative solutions need to be explored.

We must meet people where they are...

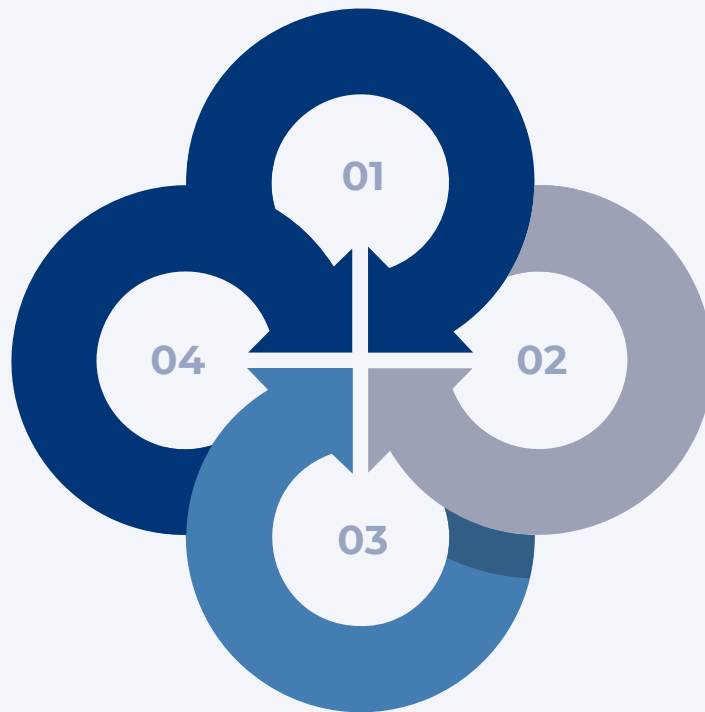
They may never make it to us



Importance of Cross-Sectorial Partnerships

Cross-sectorial perspectives enable a holistic approach and ensure services are accessible and tailored to individual needs.

By meeting people where they are, through the systems and services they already engage with, we can provide effective, timely and comprehensive care.

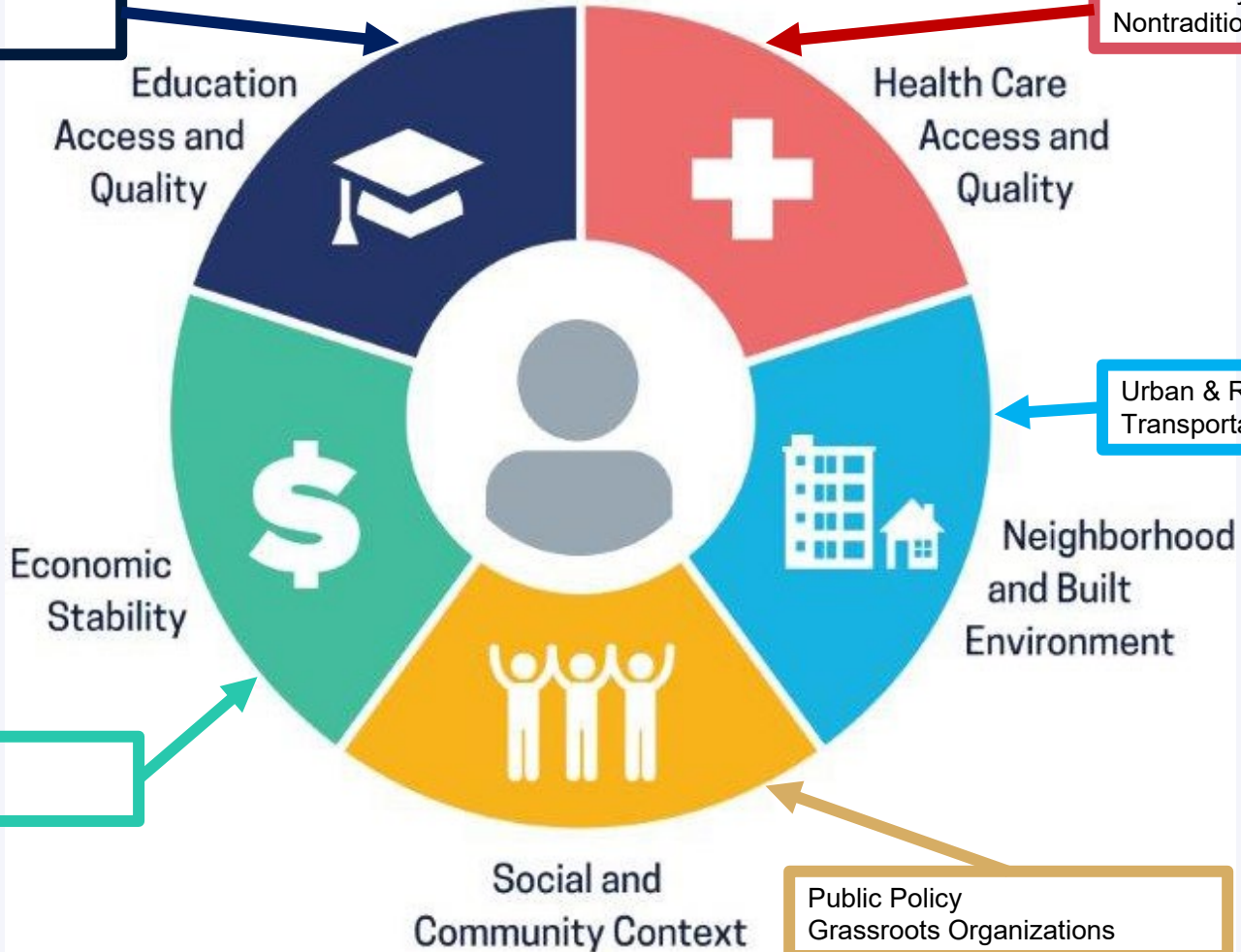


Addressing behavioral health challenges, including workforce concerns, requires collaboration with nontraditional partners.

It is crucial to involve various people and systems such as healthcare providers, educators, and community organizations.

Teachers
School Districts

Community Centers
Nontraditional Settings



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*We Need to Equip
Nontraditional Spheres of
Influence to Identify and
Engage Those in Need*

What Does this Look Like in Practice?





BRIDGE







Delicate Balance

Prepare a lay workforce...without supplanting clinically trained providers

- 108 youth enrolled
- ↑ condom use prevention beliefs
- ↓ number of sexual partners
- ↓ depressive symptoms



- Brawner, B. M.,** Abboud, S., Reason, J., Wingood, G., Jemmott, L. S. (2019). The development of an innovative, theory-driven, psychoeducational HIV/STI prevention intervention for heterosexually active black adolescents with mental illnesses. *Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies*, 14(2), 151-165. doi: 10.1080/17450128.2019.1567962
- Brawner, B. M.,** Jemmott, L. S., Wingood, G., Lozano, A. J., & Hanlon, A. (2019). Project GOLD: A pilot randomized controlled trial of a novel psychoeducational HIV/STI prevention intervention for heterosexually-active Black youth. *Research in Nursing & Health*, 42(1), 8-28. doi: 10.1002/nur.21930
- Brawner, B. M.,** Jemmott, L. S., Hanlon, A. L., Lozano, A. J., Abboud, S., Ahmed, C., & Wingood, G. (2021). Results from Project GOLD: A pilot randomized controlled trial of a psychoeducational HIV/STI prevention intervention for Black youth. *AIDS Care*, 33(6), 767-785. doi: 10.1002/nur.21930





Preliminary impact over 3-month follow-up

- ↓ anger inhibition (less suppression)
- ↓ anger dysregulation (less inappropriate responses)
- ↓ depressive symptoms
- ↓ repetitive thoughts and behaviors
- ↓ violent attitudes toward personal conflict
- ↓ beliefs that it right to threaten someone with a gun or shoot them




Strategies to Build the Behavioral Health Workforce through Cross-Sectorial Partnerships

01 Investing in community training programs and expanding the workforce will help bridge the gap; also addresses unemployment concerns.

02 An expanded workforce is essential to ensuring individuals have timely access to efficient services; individuals would work within the scope of their qualifications and abilities.

03 While lay individuals cannot replace trained therapists/providers, they can play a crucial role as navigators and connectors.

04 By building a diverse and skilled workforce, we can improve the overall behavioral health system.



*Let's work with cross-sectorial
partners to create a system
that supports and empowers
both individuals in need and
the workforce that treats
them.*

Thank You

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