

Case Examples

The AHA works with hospitals that specialize in psychiatric and substance abuse services to promote the understanding and importance of behavioral health care in the continuum of care. Hospital leaders and members of the AHA's Section for Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Services often share the innovative strategies that can be used to help increase awareness of and improve access to behavioral health services. In fact, a number of community and psychiatric hospitals have established programs to address the behavioral health needs in their community. For example:

- **JPS Health Network, Fort Worth, Texas:** JPS Health Network is a founding member of the Mental Health Connection of Tarrant County (MHC). MHC is a partnership of public and private agencies, as well as individuals in need of behavioral health services and their family members, that was formed in the aftermath of a mass shooting. The organization came together to develop a formal mental health service delivery system for its community. MHC members assess the short- and long-term behavioral health needs for the community and provide the resources and supports necessary to care for those who require assistance. In addition, MHC engages its community through a number of initiatives, such as anti-stigma campaigns, and provides a foundation for evaluating research and evidence-based practices to ensure the implementation of appropriate supports, programs and services.
- **KentuckyOne Health, Louisville, Kentucky:** KentuckyOne Health is using a grant from Catholic Health Initiatives' Mission and Ministry Fund to integrate behavioral health into its existing Care Transitions Program. The Care Transitions Program uses nurse navigators and community health workers to help improve health outcomes for recently discharged Medicaid beneficiaries and uninsured patients at high risk for readmission. Because behavioral health is integrated into this program, patients suffering from mental health or addictive disorders will work with specialized peer counselors to learn how to better manage their treatment and recovery at home.
- **Linden Oaks at Edward, Naperville, Illinois:** Linden Oaks, a 108-bed behavioral health provider, is a pioneer in Mental Health First Aid training. Their facility has developed and trained our nation's largest fellowship of Mental Health First Aid instructors, who are equipped to identify and respond to early signs of mental illness and substance abuse disorders. In less than three years, Linden Oaks has trained nearly 3,000 individuals representing a diverse cross-section of the community, including teachers, first responders, nurses, clergy, public health employees and business managers. A local cable network further expands the program's reach by providing monthly programming on mental health first aid.
- **Memorial Hospital of Gulfport/Memorial Behavioral Health, Gulfport, Mississippi:** Memorial Behavioral Health established a school-based therapy program in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The program was initiated in an effort to provide free mental health and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) counseling sessions to the children who were most impacted by the storm. The school-based setting allowed for care to be provided in a comfortable, accessible environment with parental and staff involvement. A partnership with the University of Southern Mississippi's Marriage and Family Therapy Department has provided additional therapists, allowing Memorial to expand its efforts. Since 2006,

Memorial's school-based therapy program has completed more than 16,500 counseling sessions to help students and families dealing with depression and PTSD following more recent tragedies such as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

- **St. Charles Health System, Bend, Oregon:** For three years, St. Charles Health System has placed psychologists, referred to as Behavioral Health Consultants, into pediatric physician practices to provide mental health screenings and counseling services for children and their families. By integrating behavioral health into a primary care setting, families have immediate access to intervention and support provided by highly qualified mental health professionals. As a result, Behavioral Health Consultants are able to intervene at the first signs of mental health and behavioral concerns. Efforts are currently underway to expand this integrated care model to rural communities through telemedicine support, and also schools via onsite mental health screenings.