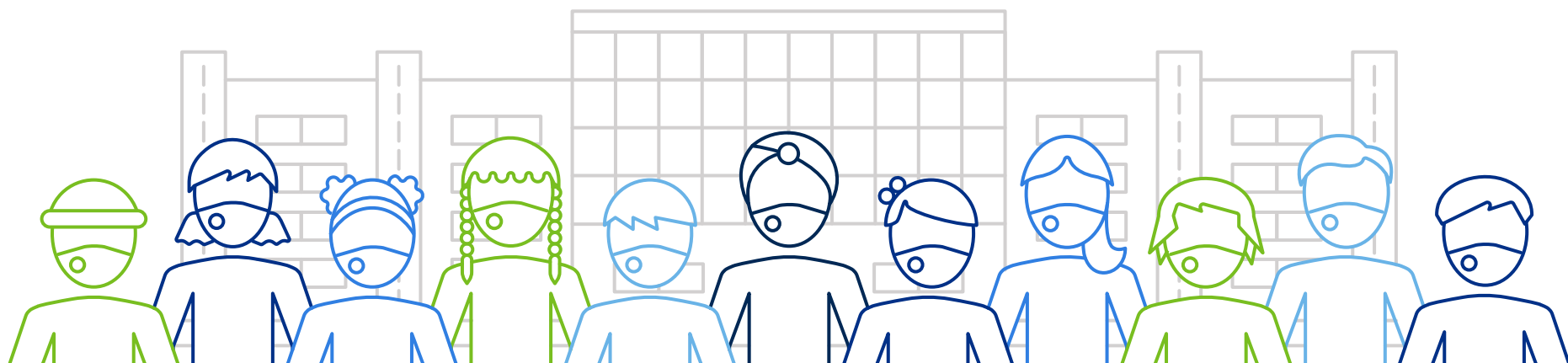
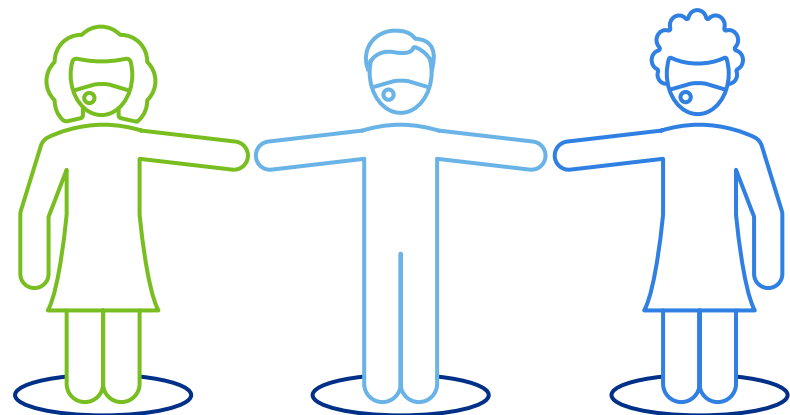


ADDRESSING A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS WITH THE HELP OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Behavioral health cases in western Kentucky and southern Indiana escalated to a crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Three local health care organizations collaborated to address the issue using key learnings from the HCC.



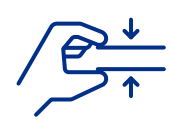
The three partners already had a strong relationship but joined the HCC to focus on several goals:



Raise awareness of the behavioral health crisis and available resources.



Encourage those in need to seek help.



Address access and care gaps in the system.

The HCC helped the partners combine efforts and improve efficiencies, providing the community with better access to a range of services including:

- # Programs to raise awareness about child abuse, sexual abuse, bullying and suicide
- # Crisis and support services for sexual assault survivors
- # In-person outreach with a local sheriff visiting schools to discuss substance use disorder and mental health
- # Sources of Strength, a peer-lead initiative that promotes kindness to help kids manage mental health issues
- # RVBH's 24-hour mobile crisis response, the only one of its kind in the area



As COVID-19 continued to exacerbate behavioral health challenges, Owensboro Health and RVBH leaned into an existing relationship with **CredibleMind**, an online platform offering a wide range of mental health and well-being information and resources, all free of charge. The platform has attracted over 23,000 community members since its launch.



The partners' experience with the HCC was so beneficial that they're completing the program again.

They continue to meet once a month and are looking to grow the partnership, with a greater focus on new programs:



Expanding RVBH's mobile service outreach and school-based therapies.



Addressing the social drivers of health, including housing insecurity, and understanding their impact on health outcomes.



Further integrating behavioral health services and referrals.

"The HCC really helped us with putting a structure in place to develop strategies and collaborative partnerships that truly impact mental health in our community."



Debbie Zuerner
Director of Community Engagement
Owensboro Health