

Affinity Forum

Advancing Population-Based Behavioral Health Inside and Outside the Hospital Walls

Session 2:

Harnessing Digital
Health to Expand
Mental Health Care
Access

In collaboration with:



Advancing Health in America





Welcome!

Moderator



Nancy Myers, PhD

Vice President of Leadership and System Innovation

American Hospital Association



Julie Orben

Project Manager, Mental Health Matters

Columbus Regional Health

Today's Panel



Deryk Van Brunt, DrPH

Clinical Professor, UC Berkeley School of Public Health

Founder and CEO, CredibleMind



Debbie Zuerner, MS

Director of Community Engagement

Owensboro Health



What We'll Cover Today

- Recap: Population Behavioral Health for hospitals what it is, and why it matters
- Ways to use digital tools, data, and AI to expand access to behavioral health care
- How technology can drive engagement, care navigation, and early intervention
- Building collaboration—and a business case—to scale solutions across communities

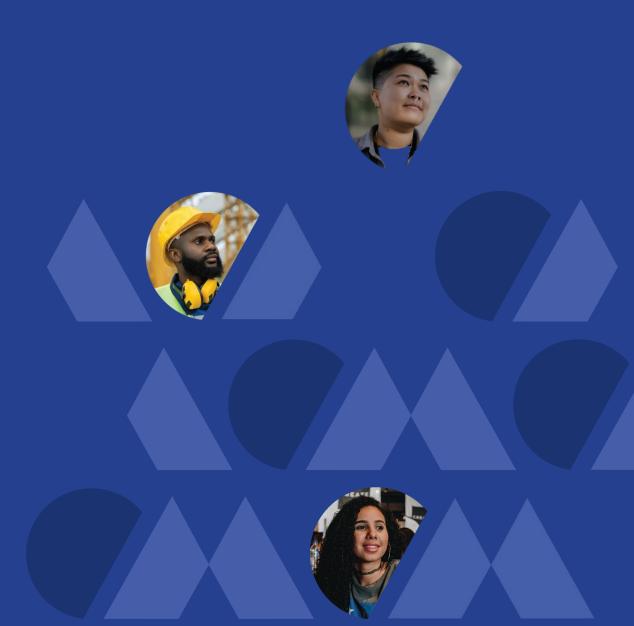
In collaboration with:



Advancing Health in America



Population Behavioral Health: Recap



Recap: What's driving the need for a new approach?

3 in 4

patients start with self-care

122M

live in an area with a mental health care resource shortage

8 to 10

years from symptoms to treatment

2X

readmission rate
with a mental health
comorbidity

4X

ED use in complex chronic illness with mental health comorbidity

5X

the cost in these cases.

250,000 Clinicians short of demand. we can't "treat" our way out.

Recap: Four Pillars of a Population Behavioral Health Model

JOURNAL OF MEDICAL INTERNET RESEARCH

Adler & Van Brunt

Viewpoint

It is Time to Realize the Promise of the Digital Mental Health Transformation: Application for Population Mental Health

Jonathan Adler^{1*}, MS, MD; Deryk Van Brunt^{2*}, DrPH

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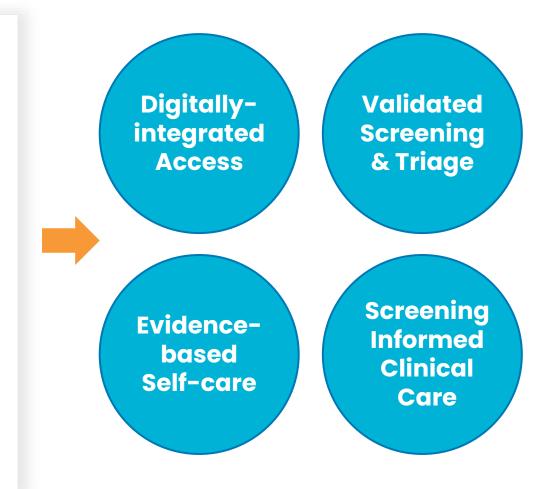
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Abstract

The past 25 years have seen the explosion of digital health care—from 1s and 0s initially serving most researchers for accomplishing their work, to the creation of smartphones, mHealth, and more recently artificial intelligence. The revolution for digital mental health is no longer in its infancy, as new tools are created to address mental health, sometimes even undergoing evaluation for adoption and efficacy. In fact, a recent study reporting on National Health Interview Survey data (annually conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics) indicated that, in 2024, 40% of adults reporting serious psychological distress used a digital health tool, which has increased from 21% in 2017 and 10% in 2013. Given the widespread access to digital tools and the potential of digital mental health, it is time for a new paradigm of care to address the mental health crisis in the United States. Reactive care, consisting largely of medication and counseling provided to those already experiencing severe or debilitating symptoms of mental anguish, is not adequate to address the needs of 22.8% of the US population (>55 million people) experiencing symptoms of a mental illness, and the larger number of people with preclinical mental health concerns. A population mental health approach is needed that includes early identification, intervention, and prevention, in addition to reactive care.

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Population Behavioral Health: How it looks, how it scales, key results



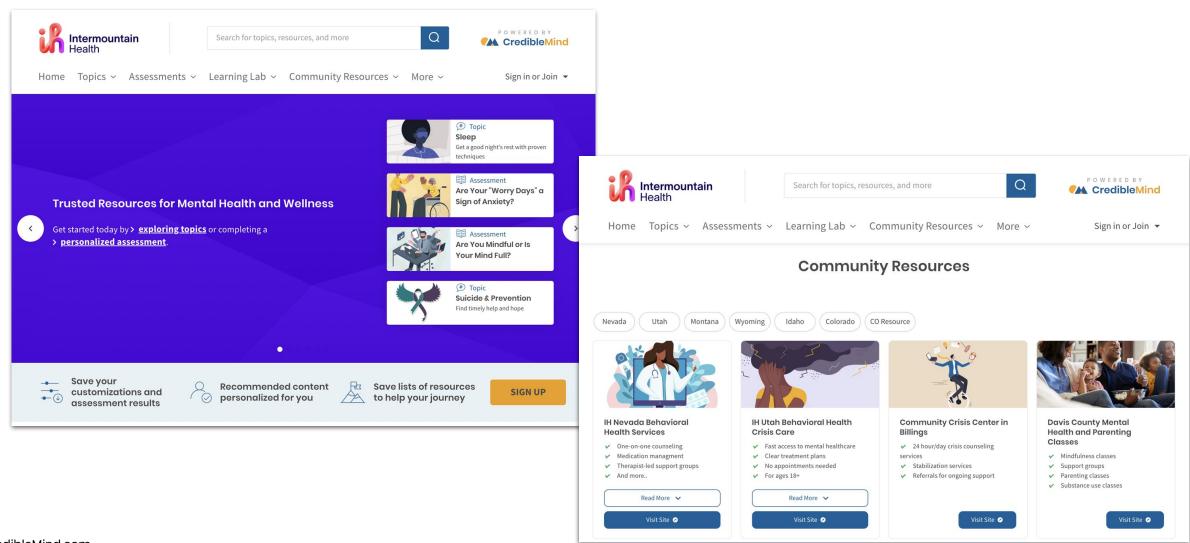
Technology plays an essential role...



...Al – safely and ethically applied – accelerates impact.

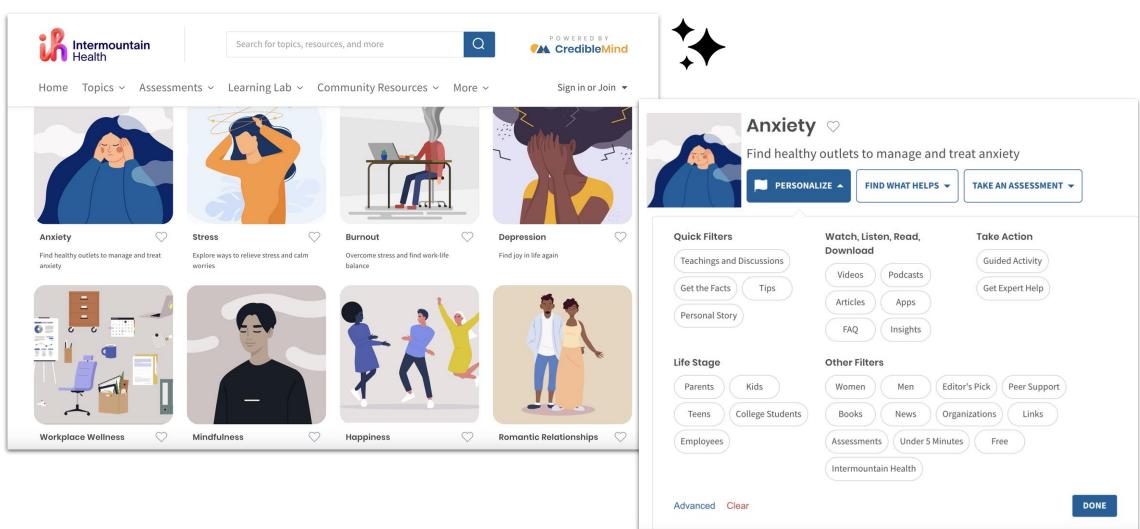
What it looks like

A community-tailored "digital front door" for self-care + system resources



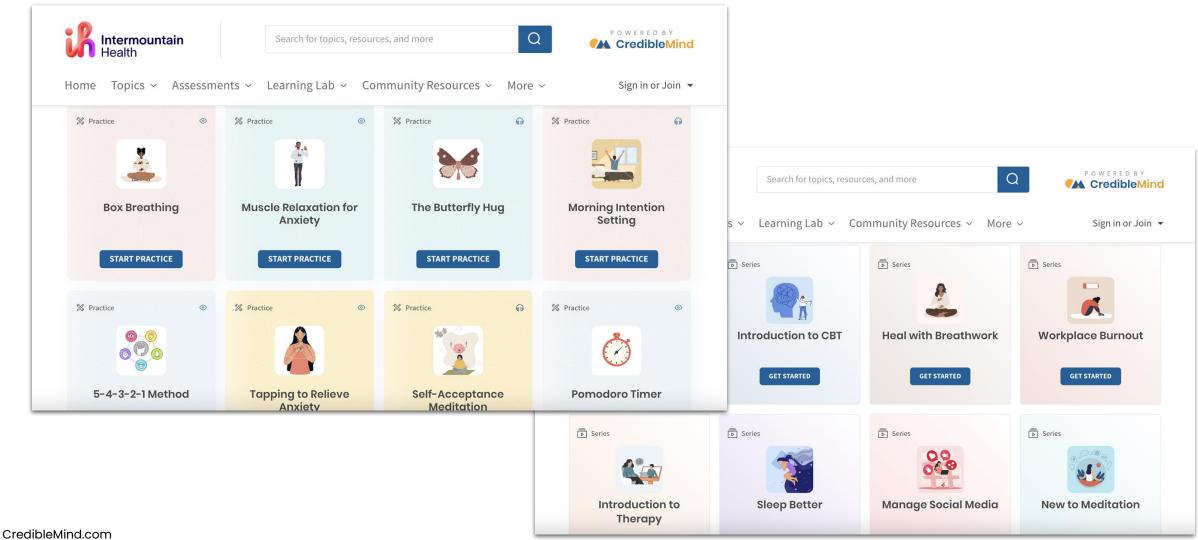
What it looks like

Resource finding and matching with AI support and hyper-personalization

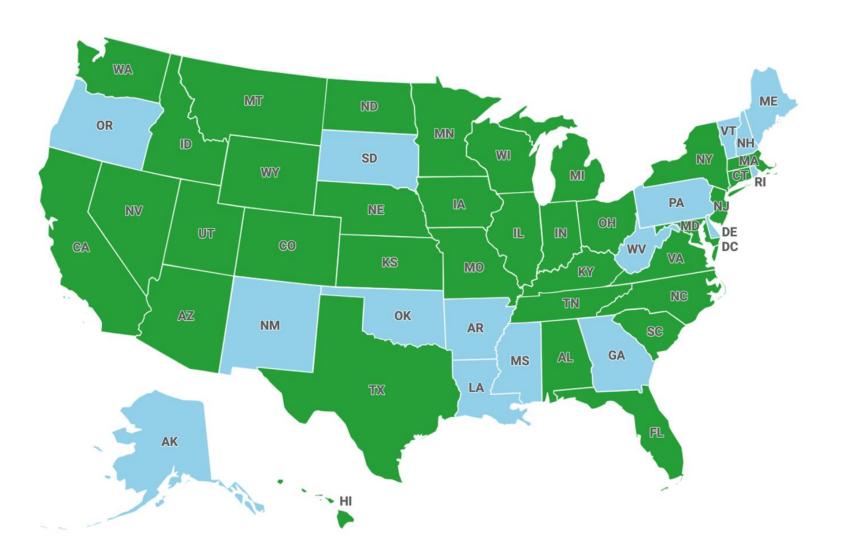


What it looks like

20+ validated screenings, 100+ topics, 15,000+ vetted resources



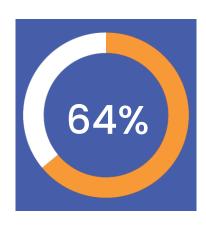
How it Scales



By the numbers

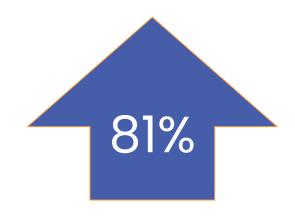
- 200+ Communities
- 446,000+ community members engaged
- 2.6M+ minutes of time spent on the site
- Over 50M with access, nationwide

Key Results: meaningfully engagement, effective triage





- √ Selected resource
- √ Searched Topic
- ✓ Used Topic Center
- √ Selected local resource
- ✓ Played, watched, listened, or read



Those screened at low to moderate risk are
81% more likely than those at high risk to use self-care resources



Those screened at high risk are 33% more
likely than those at low to moderate risk to use clinical and local resources

Key Results: improvements in self-reported knowledge, confidence, skills, behaviors



crediblemind.com 14

Which communities can be reached with a Population-based approach?



Perspectives from the field







Julie Orben

Project Manager, Mental Health Matters

Columbus Regional Health

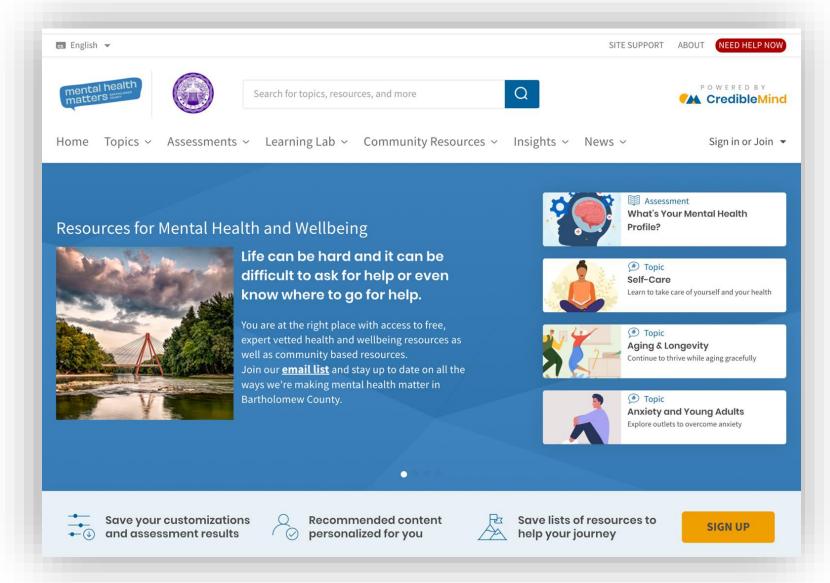


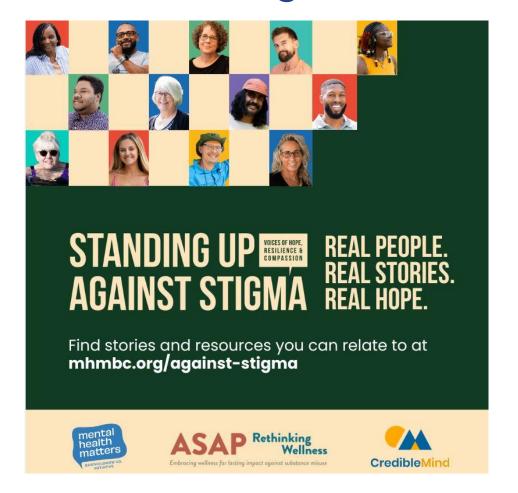


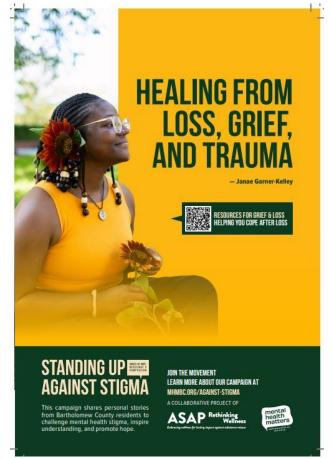
Julie Orben

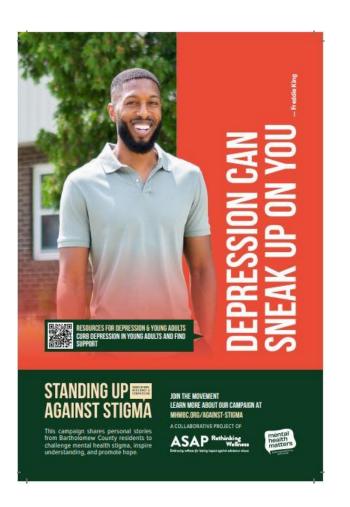
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Columbus Regional Health















Owensboro Health



Debbie Zuerner, MSDirector of Community Engagement
Owensboro Health



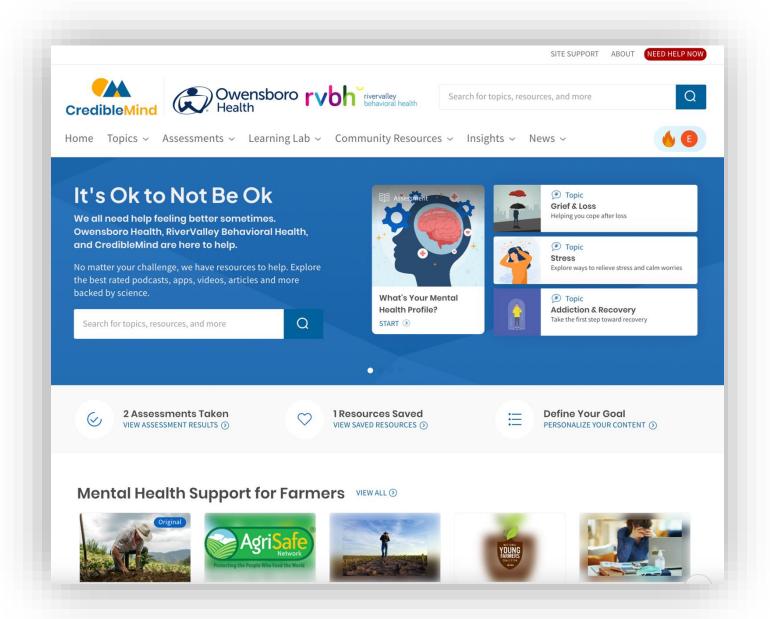
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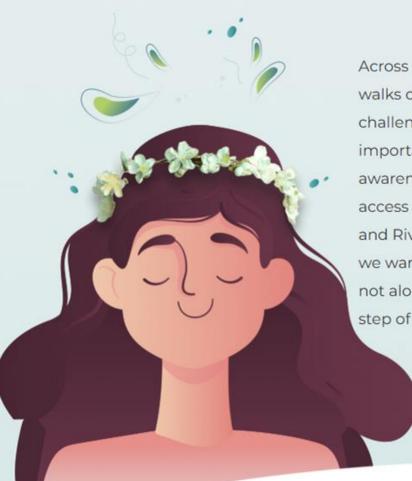


Green River Regional Mental Health Collaborative

Your

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

"Mental health is a vital part of our overall well-being, shaping the way we think, feel, and navigate daily life."



Across Kentucky, individuals from all walks of life face mental health challenges—making it more important than ever to raise awareness, offer support, and ensure access to care. At Owensboro Health and RiverValley Behavioral Health, we want you to know that you are not alone. We are here for you, every step of the way.

Campaign Messaging



Your Mental Health Matters

- · Your well-being is important
- You deserve to feel supported, safe, and heard.
- Mental health affects every area of your life: relationships, work, sleep, even physical health.
- Prioritizing your mental health isn't selfish—it's necessary.
- You matter. How you feel matters.
 And help is always available.



Seeking Help is a Sign of Strength

- · It takes courage to ask for help
- Facing your emotions shows selfawareness and resilience.
- Therapy, support groups, and professional care are tools
- Just like we rely on experts for physical care, we should do the same for our mental well-being.
- Strong people take care of their minds.



It's OK to not be OK

- Life can be overwhelming, and emotions are part of being human.
- · Struggling doesn't make you weak
- Acknowledging that you're not OK is the first step toward healing.
- We all have hard days. You're not alone in feeling this way.
- Mental health awareness means creating space for honesty, vulnerability, and support.



Mental Health IS Health

- We go to the doctor when we feel sick—why not talk to someone when we feel mentally unwell?
- Preventive care matters: just like annual check-ups, mental health check-ins can keep things from becoming a crisis.
- Mental health IS health—it affects how we think, feel, sleep, eat, and connect with others.



supported and heard.







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Discussion





Session 3 Preview: Topics

Real world case studies and implementation strategies to:

- Scaling behavioral health initiatives
- Define and measure KPIs
- Apply analytics to refine intervention strategies
- Drive impact on quality, outcomes, and budgets
- · Setting meaningful reporting outcomes to support program growth.

We're saving your seat: Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025 | 12:00 p.m. CT

In collaboration with:



Advancing Health in America



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Thank you!

Coming up: Session 3

Measuring Success and Impact

11/6/25 | noon CT

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