



THE MEADOWS MENTAL HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE

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**Select Committee on Economic Competitiveness:  
Improving Competitiveness Through  
Mental Health Treatment and Brain Health Research**

Andy Keller, PhD | December 5, 2017

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# Legislative Success to Improve Mental Health

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*The Legislature has significantly increased funding for mental health over the last three legislative sessions.*

## Addressing the Needs of Today through state-local partnerships:

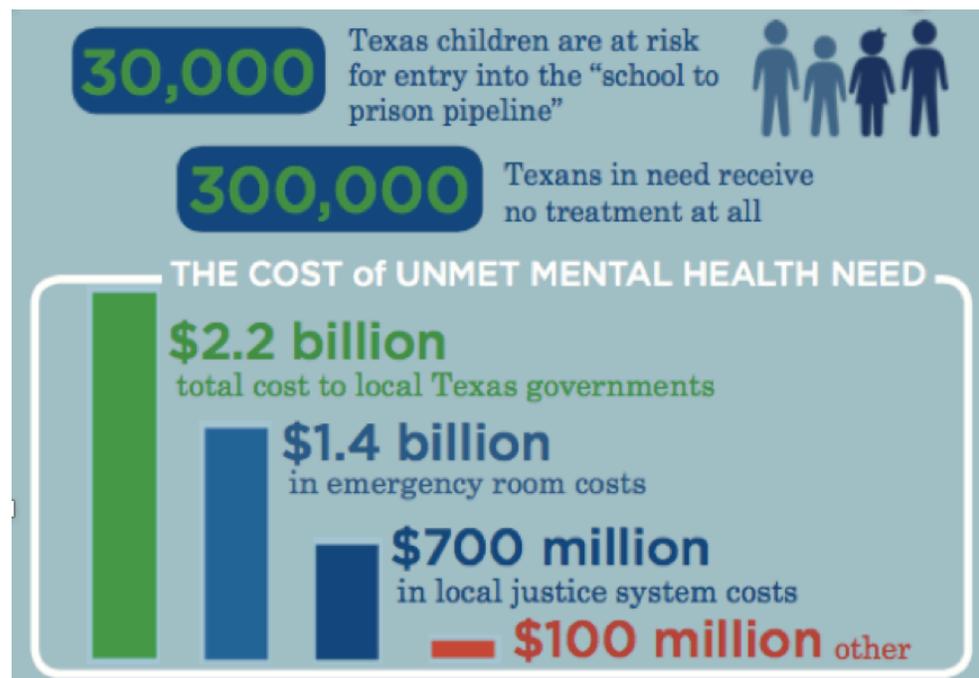
- Partner with medical schools to modernize **aging state hospitals**.
- Partner with communities to: reduce the number of individuals with mental illness **cycling through our jails** (85(R) SB 292), help address **community needs** (85(R) HB 13), fill gaps for **veterans and their families** (84(R) SB 55), and build treatment capacity for **children in foster care** (85(R) SB 74 and HHSC Rider 172).

## Beginning to Build the Integrated Systems of Tomorrow:

- Provide enforcement tools to make **parity** a reality (85(R) HB 10).
- **Intervene earlier** for mothers (85(R) HB 2466) and children (85(R) HB 1600).

# Unmet Needs Drive Health Care Spending

- Inadequately treated mental illness and substance use costs taxpayers **\$1.4 billion** in emergency room (ER) costs + over **\$700 million** in local justice system costs **each year**.
- **Bexar County:** 200 highest-cost cases drive, on average, **\$330,000** in annual costs per person.
- **85(R) SB 292** will begin to support evidence-based interventions to reduce these costs.



# The Legacy of a Lack of Parity

## THE CURRENT MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

### LIFE IN COMMUNITY



PHYSICAL

MENTAL

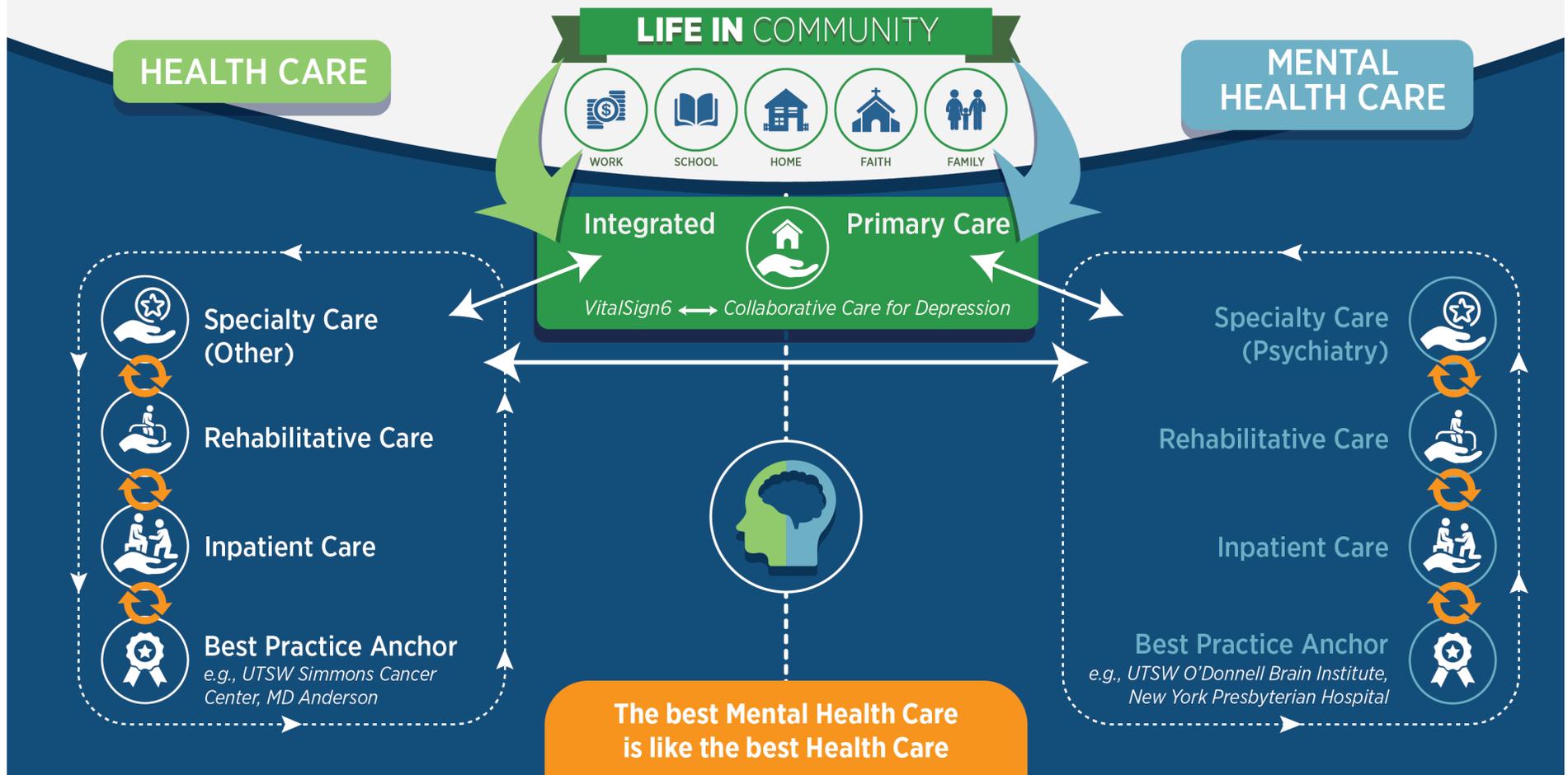


The best Mental Health Care should be just like the best Health Care



# The Potential of Integrated Health Care

## ● THE IDEAL MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM ●



# Depression and the Workplace

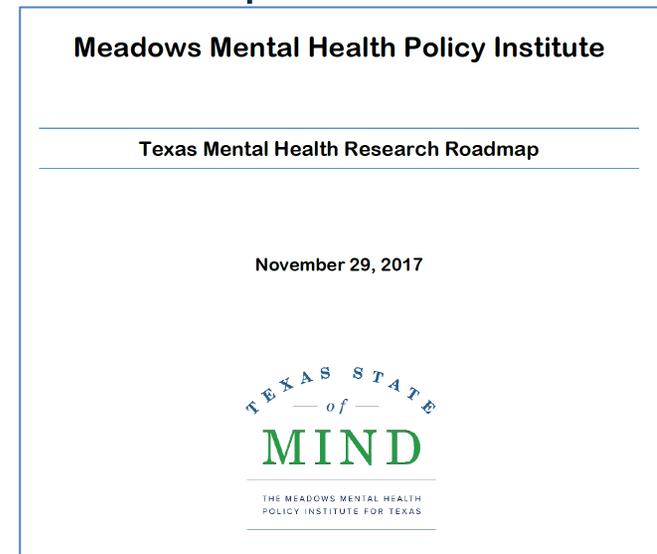
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*Despite being a readily and successfully treatable illness, **depression outcomes lag:***

- About **7.5% of the workforce** has depression each year.
- Depression costs U.S. employers **\$187.8 billion per year**: \$134 billion in health care costs, \$20.9 billion in absenteeism, and \$32.9 billion in lost productivity.
- Workers with depression have more than **double the rate** of short-term disability (up to 48%). Every 3 months, people with depression lose **4.8 workdays** and **11.5 days of productivity**.
- Depression worsens health outcomes:
  - **3 to 4 times greater** chance of death post-heart attack.
  - **50% higher risk** of mortality post-stroke.

# Texas Brain Research: Cures & Competitiveness

- Texas is a world leader in **cancer** and **other health research**.
- Texas medical schools have brought together their psychiatry departments to develop a roadmap for **brain health research**.
- Research is a driver of both **economic opportunity** and **better care** - both cures and workforce development.



TEXAS STATE  
— of —  
MIND

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okay  
to say

*The truth is: mental illness affects more people than you may think, and we need to talk about it. It's Okay to say..."* [okaytosay.org](http://okaytosay.org)

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