



MORRIS HOSPITAL  
AUXILIARY & FOUNDATION



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## Creating a Specialized Pediatric Integrated Behavioral Health Program at Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers

Right now, more than ever, our children need us. In October 2021, the Children's Hospital Association released information stating that Pediatricians, child and adolescent Psychiatrists and Children's Hospitals across the country declared a national emergency in children's mental health. The article urged policymakers to take action such as improving access to telemedicine and accelerate the integration of mental health care in primary pediatric care settings in order to create more services for this vulnerable population.

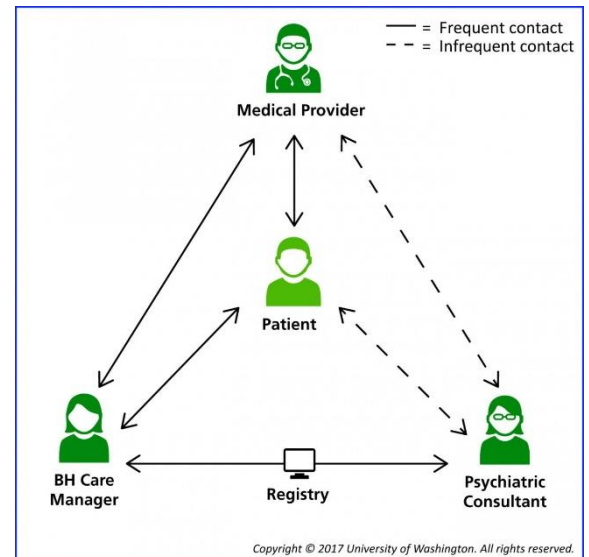
Additional specialized Pediatric Integrated Behavioral Health resources in the communities we serve are desperately needed. At Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers, we believe that raising awareness, developing productive treatments and transforming children's mental health needs to be a top priority. Our goal is that together, with Physicians, Hospital and Clinical Leaders, the Board of Directors and strong community partnerships, we can create a specialized Pediatric Integrated Behavioral Health program.

Your support will help us take action during this  
heartbreaking pediatric crisis.

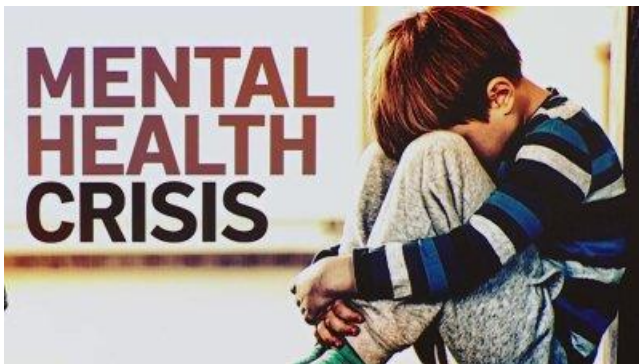


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In February 2019, Morris Hospital launched its first Integrated Behavioral Health program to address a growing need for behavioral health resources within the primary care setting. The Behavioral Health team adopted the Collaborative Care Model (CoCM), which is team-based behavioral health delivered in the primary care setting. CoCM involves three team members: a primary care provider, a behavioral health care manager and a consulting psychiatrist. This team-based care program embraces a philosophy of addressing whole-person needs rather than treating medical and mental health needs separately. To-date, the model is used in eight Morris Hospital primary care sites, has served more than 870 patients and has interacted with these patients over 7,725 times.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for a specialized pediatric program became sadly obvious. In 2021, Morris Hospital's Emergency Room had a 38% increase in pediatric mental health crisis'. Morris Hospital providers who treat children hit a record of 211 referrals for pediatric behavioral health needs. 1,019 prescriptions for children suffering from depression and anxiety were given and there was a 54% increase in self-injury or suicide. The creation of a specialized Pediatric Integrated Behavioral Health program is needed and offers the best opportunity to address and improve these alarming trends.



In the first year, funding for the new program will total \$150,000. These resources will be used to pay for:

- A Pediatric Care Manager
- A Child/Adolescent Psychiatric Consultant
- Educational Materials for Families and Patients
- Support for Community Projects Directly Addressing Pediatric Behavioral Health Needs

As a non-profit hospital, we rely on support from our community in order to help sustain a thriving and impactful healthcare organization. Thank you for your interest in this important initiative. Your consideration means a lot to us. To learn more about the new Pediatric Integrated Behavioral Health program, or to make a gift, please contact Hannah Wehrle, Auxiliary & Foundation Officer at Morris Hospital, at 815.705.7021 or [hwehrle@morrishospital.org](mailto:hwehrle@morrishospital.org).