CHRT

Addressing gaps in the behavioral health workforce

Nancy Baum, PhD, MHS
Health Policy Director, Center for Health and Research Transformation
Deputy Director, Behavioral Health Workforce Research Center
University of Michigan
The issues

- Insufficient numbers and maldistribution of behavioral health providers
- Rise in the prevalence of behavioral health needs in the population
- Leads to behavioral health crises, particularly in rural communities
State and local efforts

- Increase supply of behavioral health workers
  - Short-term actions
  - Medium and longer-term actions
- Improve community services
  - Encourage appropriate, timely use of services
  - Reduce demand for emergency and inpatient services
    - Jail services
Short-term actions

- Financial incentives
  - Loan repayment
  - Tax credits
- Visa waivers
- Telehealth expansion
- CHWs and peers as extenders
- Changes to scopes of work
  - Tiered certification
  - Psychologists prescribing medication
  - NPs and PAs prescribe Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
Medium/longer-term actions

- Professional support for primary care providers delivering behavioral health services - curbside consultations
- Increase residency slots
- Pipeline programs
- Scholarships
- Tailored data collection
Innovations

- Complex systems modeling – uses community-specific data to assess how system changes could impact ER boarding time and other factors
- Financial incentives for physicians to get waived to deliver MAT (BCBSM Michigan)
- Tiered certificates
- Public/private partnerships
- Statewide strategic planning – Led by DHHS
Discussion
Our mission.
Advancing health care delivery, the health of the population, and access to care.

Our expertise.
Identifying evidence-based approaches that improve policy and practice.

Subscribe.
Text CHRT to 22828