

INTEGRATED CARE

What is Integrated Care?

For the purposes of the Foundation's Initiative, **Integrated Care** is defined as the integration of mental health services and physical health care in a primary care setting.

Why Are We Funding Integrated Care?

The President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health Report, "Achieving the Promise: Transforming Mental Health Care in Michigan" (July 2003) cited the need for early mental health screening, assessment and linkage with treatment and supports to significantly impact the lives of children and adults who experience mental health problems.

There have been numerous reports written to support integrated care as a promising vehicle for increasing accessibility to mental health services and providing early intervention and treatment for mild and moderate mental health symptoms. At the national and state level, effective integrated care models are being implemented.

There are a variety of effective models for implementing integrated care. The Foundation encourages physical and mental health care providers to partner in adopting models that they can most easily transition from their current structure that best meets the needs of their patient populations, that ensures accountability and that has the best chance of becoming a sustainable practice.

What Is The Goal of This Initiative?

The goal of this Initiative is to advance the Integrated Care movement in primary care settings throughout southeast Michigan (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties). Primary care settings (health clinics, primary care providers, school based health clinics), are crucial for treating those with mild to moderate symptoms that, if treated effectively, can be prevented from developing into disabling mental illness or emotional disturbance. Multi-year grants have been awarded since 2008 to address the following objectives:

- Enhance access to mental health services for the underserved
- Provide early screening, assessment and mental health treatment for those with mild to moderate symptoms
- Identify, evaluate and promote effective integrated care models that improve patient outcomes, and have potential to become sustainable practices
- Reduce the stigma associated with receiving mental health services