



Starfield Summit Issue Brief

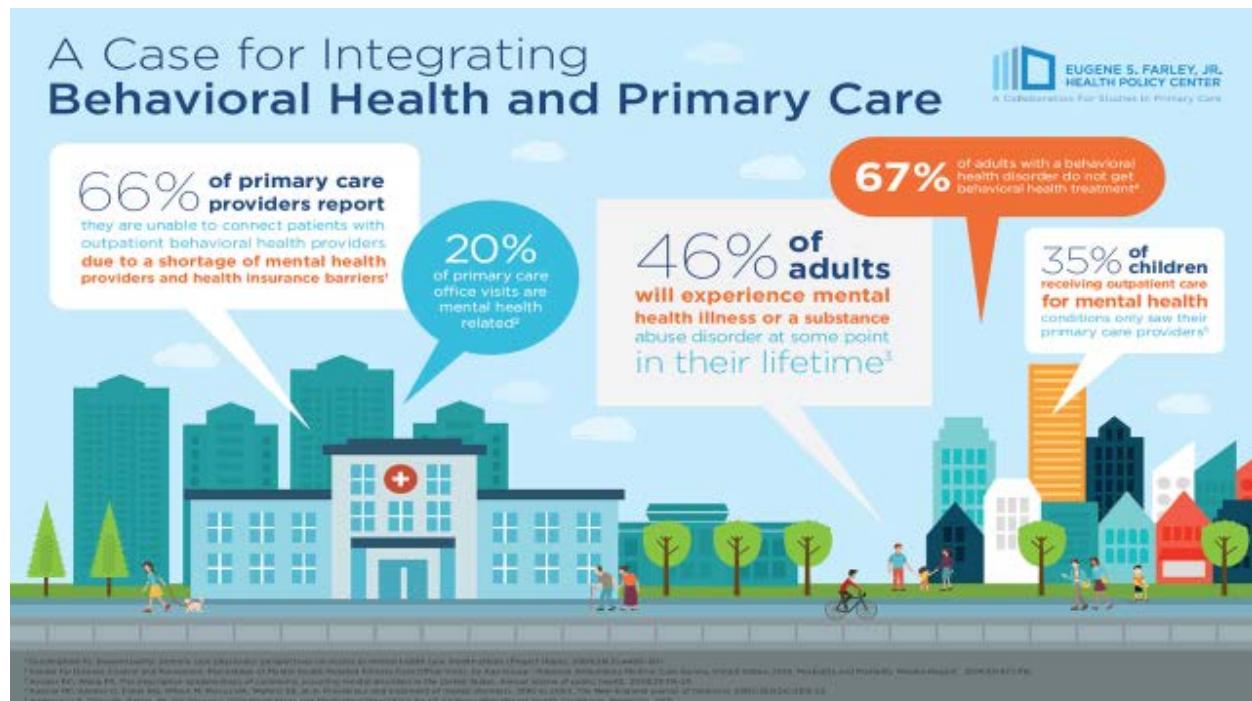
DISCUSSION TOPIC:

- Teams to accommodate the whole person: Integrated primary care and mental health

Why This Is Important (*brief description*):

- People present in wholes, not pieces. Despite this truth, our healthcare delivery system has reinforced a false notion that mental health is separate from physical health. We support this fragmentation in how we pay for, deliver, train for, and set policy for care. This fragmentation limits efforts to improve outcomes, decrease cost, and enhance the patient and provider experience. Primary care is at the center of all health policy discussions right now – what role will it play in better integrating mental health? How will primary care rise to the challenge?

What We Think We Know (*bulleted evidence + seminal references*):





QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION (PRECONFERENCE)

Questions for Group Discussion (add brief answers post-conference)

- ▶ What are some of the most promising examples of integrating primary care and mental health?
- ▶ What is keeping you from advancing this movement, and what do you need to move forward?
- ▶ Who is accountable for ensuring the integration of primary care and mental health?

Ideas Worthy of Policymaker Attention (*lists ideas for policy preconference, refined ones post-conference*)

- ▶ Consider what impact carving out behavioral health does at all levels and policy processes
- ▶ Standardize mental health screening and reporting across payers and practices
- ▶ See the mental health “system” clearly for what it is now (a “safety net” and a source of “specialty care”)—and what it CAN be (a very useful vehicle for community based interventions, a much wider array of social determinant supports and population campaigns)
- ▶ Consider how current policies are limiting patients’ choice and ability to receive the most effective behavioral health possible

Important Unanswered Questions & Ideas Worthy of Research Community Attention

- ▶ How will our workforce needs change for mental health and primary care when we better integrate care?
- ▶ What payment models are most promising to support integrated care?
- ▶ What are the policies that must be addressed to change our culture around integrated healthcare?