



## Issue Sheet—Behavioral Health *(Updated March 20, 2018)*

Since 2005, Central Health has served as a convener of local behavioral health stakeholders dedicated to increasing and improving services for Travis County residents. Stakeholders include leadership from the city of Austin, Travis County, Central Health, Integral Care, private hospitals, partners and community foundations. These collaborations have led to:

- New facilities and resources for psychiatric crisis care
- Greater integration of primary care and behavioral health services

### **Integrated care**

In partnership with Integral Care—Travis County’s Local Mental Health Authority—Central Health’s E-Merge Program co-locates behavioral health services within patients’ primary care medical home:

- Provides Medical Access Program (MAP) patients behavioral health care services at CommUnityCare locations
- Concurrently addresses improvements in patients’ physical and behavioral health
- Supported through \$1.9 million annual CommUnityCare investment

### **Behavioral Health Encounters Provided at CommUnityCare**



### **Crisis care**

Since 2006, Central Health has supported a variety of psychiatric hospital and crisis services through its partnership with Integral Care:

- \$8 million in annual support from the Community Care Collaborative—Central Health’s non-profit partnership with Seton Healthcare Family—for inpatient hospitalizations, crisis stabilization and respite care beds
- Value-based payment system incentivizes providers to better guide patients from hospital to community-based care, thus reducing hospital readmissions and wait times
- A \$1 per-year lease for Central Health property provided Integral Care land to build and open a new 16-bed mental health crisis facility in 2017



### **Texas Brain Health planning initiative**

In 2017, the Texas Legislature prioritized the redesign of the aging Austin State Hospital, a state-managed psychiatric facility providing care for residents of a 38-county region of Central and Southeast Texas. For Central Health this work includes:

- Participating on the steering committee of regional leaders in behavioral health, health care, emergency services and stakeholders led by Dr. Steve Strakowski, Dell Medical School chair of psychiatry;
- Utilizing a planning grant in 2018 to design a continuum of care from the hospital to community-based settings;
- Redesigning campus facilities to serve as a regional hub, including hospital care, outpatient services and research activities.

### **Pilot projects**

The Community Care Collaborative continues to support pilot projects designed to integrate medical and behavioral health services, including:

- Launching a medication-assisted treatment pilot program in coordination with Integral Care in 2017 to provide wraparound services for patients with opioid use disorders;
- Increasing patient access to psychiatric services by offering telemedicine at primary care locations;
- Implementation of an integrated behavioral health intervention model for chronic disease management at the Central Health Southeast Health & Wellness Center.