Increasing Behavioral Health Access through Depression Screening at Two Student-Run Clinics

Addressing Health Disparities for People Experiencing Homelessness

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Meet the Leadership Team



Helen Dang Willow Clinic Current Co-Manager



Ritz Tolentino Willow Clinic Incoming Co-Manager



The Behavioral Health Team (BHT)

01 02

What is the Willow Clinic?
The Beginnings of BHT

BHT Operations

Data and Research Project Structure

Relevance, Plans to Continue

03

04

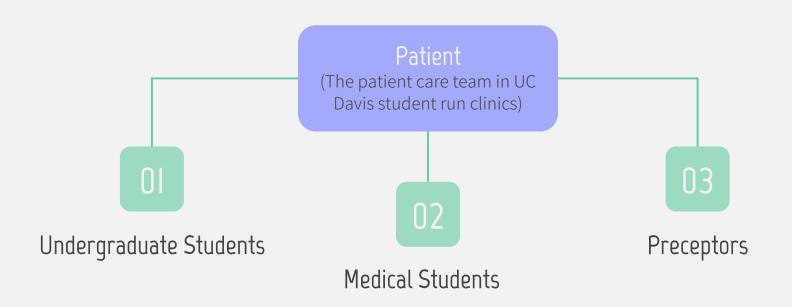
What is the Willow Clinic?
The Beginnings of BHT

What is the Willow Clinic?

The mission of the Willow Clinic is to holistically improve the health of community members who are currently living outside or experiencing homelessness while providing a unique platform for student education. We strive to address inequities in healthcare access by operating a free clinic each Saturday.

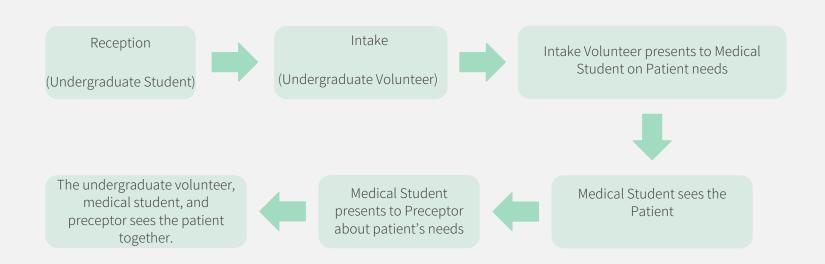


The Student Run Clinic Model



Saturday General Clinic

Medical Clinic Flow



Community Relevance

9,200 people experiencing homelessness in Sacramento County 8% of unhoused adults report a suicide attempt in the last 30 days

Pressing need for more accessible mental health and psychiatric services

46.72% prevalence of depressive symptoms in the unhoused community



SACRAMENTO, CA

Inception of BHT

2020

Mind and Wellness

Ideas for a Mind & Wellness Clinic

2021

SCREENING

Implementation of depression screening and the Behavioral Health Team (BHT)

Now

BHT CLINIC

Monthly psychiatric clinics and resources available for eligible patients The Mind and Wellness Committee strived to start Mind and Wellness Clinic, a project to focus on providing awareness and increase access to

mental health services.

- 1. Creating and finalizing of a working protocol, increasing efficiency of screenings within the clinic space virtually.
- Providing Life Coaching services as an alternative option for patients to gauge interested in behavioral health programs.

2020



Willow Clinic is now offering mental health services centered around treating:

- -MOOD DISORDERS
- -PTSD
- -ANXIETY
- -STRESS MANAGEMENT

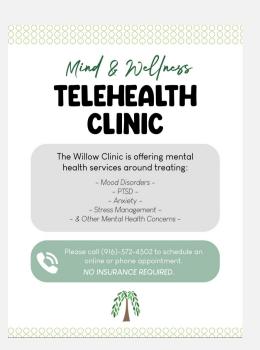
AND OTHER MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS



PLEASE CALL THE NUMBER BELOW TO SCHEDULE AN ONLINE OR PHONE APPOINTMENT. NO INSURANCE REQUIRED.

916-572-4502

2021



The swift change from the Mind and Wellness Specialty Clinic in Willow to BHT.

- Moving from a telemedicine platform of screenings to an in-person platform; integrated in our general clinic flow.
- Reaching out to psychiatrists and medical students to increase community participation, more availability for patients, and increase in patient care. Collaboration with JVMC.

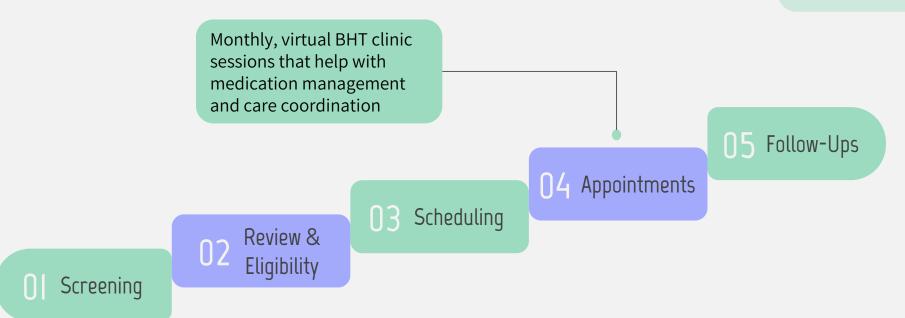
NOW

The Behavioral Health Team (BHT)

We are a team of psychiatrists, medical students, and undergraduate students who provide depression and anxiety screenings and free mental health services through two UC Davis affiliated student-run clinics (The Willow Clinic and JVMC).

02

BHT Operations



OI SCREENING

BHT Operations

Patient is seen at clinic



Patient is offered the Behavioral Health Screening Form

New and returning patients screened with PHQ-9 and GAD-7 questionnaires

OI SCREENING

BHT Operations



Behavioral Health Screening

We are offering voluntary, confidential screening for depression and anxiety for all patients at Willow Clinic. The information that you provide in this form will help us better understand your mental health needs, so we can help connect you to community resources.

Over the last two weeks, how often have you been bothered by:

PHQ-9	Not at all	Several days	More than half the days	Nearly every day
Little interest or pleasure in doing things	0	1	2	3
2. Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless	0	1	2	3
Trouble falling asleep or staying asleep, or sleeping too much	0	1	2	3
Feeling tired or having little energy	0	1	2	3
5. Poor appetite or overeating	0	1	2	3
 Feeling bad about yourself – or that you are a failure or have let yourself or your family down. 	0	1	2	3
7. Trouble concentrating on things, such as reading the newspaper or watching television	0	1	2	3
Moving or speaking so slowly that other people could have noticed. Or the opposite – being so fidgety or restless that you have been moving around a lot more than usual.	0	1	2	3
Thoughts that you would be better off dead, or of hurting yourself in some way.	0	1	2	3
10. If you checked off any problems, how difficult have these made it for you to do your work, take care of things at home, or get along with other people?	Not difficult at all	Somewhat difficult	Very difficult	Extremely difficult
(CLINIC USE ONLY) Sum of each column				



Over the last two weeks, how often have you been bothered by:

GAD-7	Not at all	Several days	More than half the days	Nearly every day
Feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge	0	1	2	3
2. Not being able to stop or control worrying	0	1	2	3
3. Worrying too much about different things	0	1	2	3
4. Trouble relaxing	0	1	2	3
5. Being so restless that it is hard to sit still	0	1	2	3
6. Becoming easily annoyed or irritable	0	1	2	3
7. Feeling afraid as if something awful might happen	0	1	2	3
 If you checked off any problems, how difficult have these made it for you to do your work, take care of things at home, or get along with other people? 	Not difficult at all	Somewhat difficult	Very difficult	Extremely difficult
(CLINIC USE ONLY) Sum of each column				

		(CLINIC USE ON	LY)		
(PHQ-9) TO	TAL SCORE from FRONT page:				
• If qu	estion 9 was ≥1, Co-D or precep	otor was notified b	efore visit:	(Y) or ☐ (N)	
(GAD-7) TO	OTAL SCORE from BACK page: _				
If the patie	nt screened POSITIVE				
• The	y were offered BHT services: (Y	′) or \square (N)			
	Scheduled for BHT:				
	 Date and time schedule 	id:			
	Denied services:				
• The	y have a psychiatrist: (Y) or ('N)			

OI SCREENING

PHQ-9 (Patient Health Questionnaire-9) as a diagnostic tool:

- ☐ Standardized depression screening scale
- ☐ Effective, yet easy to fill out

BHT Operations

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02 REVIEW & ELICIBILITY

BHT Operations

PHQ-9 score is evaluated by the medical team



Scenario 1: Crisis Intervention

Patient **scores > 1** on PHQ-9 question 9



Scenario 2: BHT Positive

Patient screens **positive** on the PHQ-9



Scenario 3: BHT Negative

Patient screens **negative** on the PHQ-9



02 REVIEW & ELICIBILITY

Scenario 1: Crisis Intervention

The patient indicates a score of **1 or more** for PHQ-9 Question 9 (suicide ideation)

- the preceptor is immediately notified
- high concern cases: call 911 for mobile crisis team
- less acute cases: recommend patient to the emergency department or Mental Health Urgent Care Clinic

02 REVIEW & ELICIBILITY



Scenario 3: Negative Screen

The patient's responses indicate a score of **less than 10** on the PHQ-9 screening



patient is provided with mental health resources and/or connected to services

02 REVIEW & ELICIBILITY



The patient's responses indicate a score of **10 or more** on the PHQ-9 screening



labeled as BHT positive, electronic health record updated



Eligibility for BHT clinic service is evaluated

02 REVIEW & ELIGIBILITY

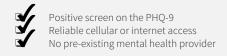
Criteria to be eligible for BHT clinic service:

- Positive screen on the PHQ-9
- Reliable cellular or internet access
- No pre-existing connection with mental health provider

03 OFFERING SERVICES



Eligibility for BHT clinic service is evaluated









Positive screen on the PHQ-9 Reliable cellular or internet access No pre-existing mental health provider

Patient is offered a BHT clinic appointment

Patient is provided with mental health resources and/or connected to services

03 OFFERING SERVICES



Patient is offered a BHT clinic appointment

If interested...



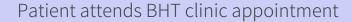


If not interested...

Patient is scheduled at the next BHT clinic

Patient is provided with mental health resources and/or connected to services

04 APPOINTMENTS



- included in BHT study
- receive access to
 - direct monthly psychiatric services
 - community resources
 - social referrals for long-term mental health care

04 APPOINTMENTS

BHT clinic team:

Attending preceptor/s
(psychiatrist/s)

Resident
preceptor/s

provides guidance on interview and treatment plan

Medical student/s

patient interview

Undergraduate volunteers

coordination, social service referrals, shadowing

04 APPOINTMENTS

BHT clinic appointment workflow:

Patient joins or calls into the virtual appointment



Medical student conducts patient interview (w/ resident preceptor)



Medical student presents to attending preceptor; undergraduate volunteer/s offers to connect patient to social services



The team provides patient with medication management and/or resource referrals



Patient is scheduled for a follow-up BHT clinic appointment if needed



Attending preceptor assesses and provides diagnosis and treatment plan

05 FOLLOW-UPS

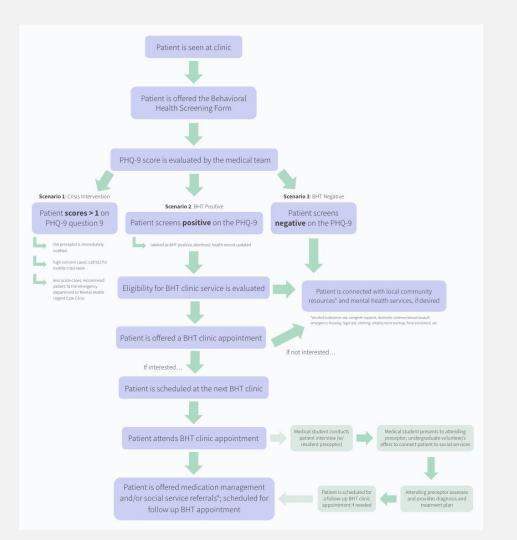


Patient attends BHT clinic appointment



Patient is offered medication management and/or social service referrals*; scheduled for follow up BHT appointment

*Undergraduate volunteers check-in on patients post-appointment



03

Data and Research Project Structure

Project Structure

Preceptor

Provides final edits and guidance.

Medical Students

Provide clinical experience in every step of the research.

Project Leaders

Coordinate BHT program and opportunities for the research team.

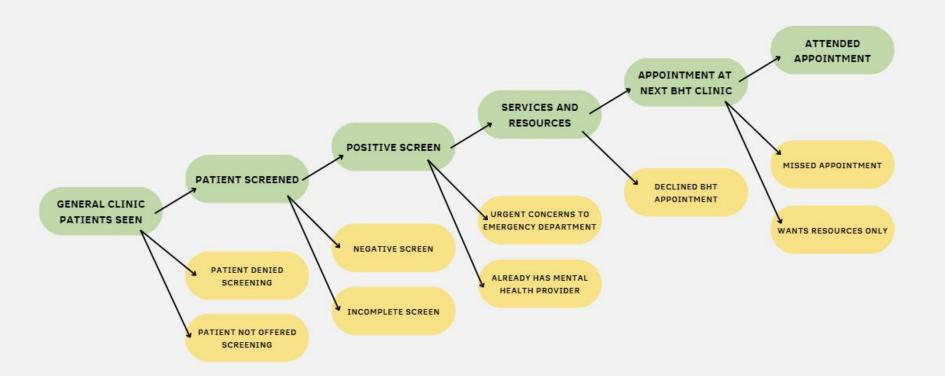
Volunteer Team

Verify quality of data collection and learn research skills.

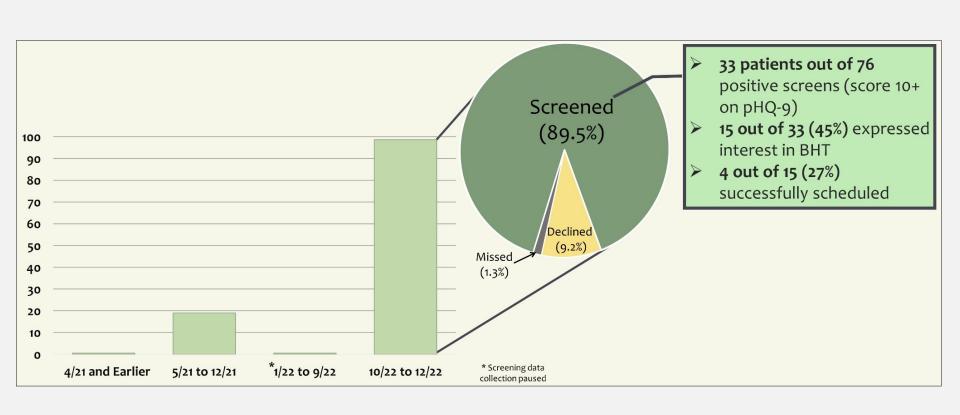
Clinic Members

Collect data during medical clinics.

Patient Workflow



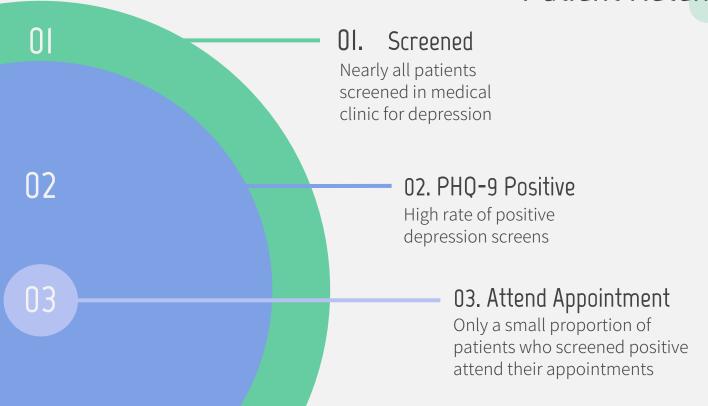
Pilot Screening Period



Project Since Initial Data Collection

- Fewer weekly medical clinic patients
- Nearly doubled patient screening
- No missed patients
- Trained new preceptors and volunteers
- Increased rate of declined surveys

Patient Retention



04

Relevance, Plans to Continue

What Does BHT Mean to Our Community

01

02

A vital health equity disparity has been indentified. Free mental health resources are offered and research draws further attention to the issue.

For Patients

Access to community-informed medical training to better identify and address health inequities facing our community.

For Clinic Members

What Does it Take to Run a BHT Clinic?

- Preceptor(s) Capable or Prescribing Medications
- Volunteer Staff
- Screening System, Electronic Medical Records (EMR)
- Virtual or Clinic Appointments

Challenges for BHT

Limited Access to Telemedicine BHT Appointments Barriers to providing continuity of care to address mental health needs

Negative Stigmatization of mental health within the unhoused patient population

Limited Access of technology for BHT

Limited access to a pharmacy to retrieve medication

Limited opportunities to find a physical space for BHT appointments to be in-person

Next Steps

On-Going

Returning
Patient
Appointments

Screen
Medical Clinic
Patients

I Month

Leadership Transition

Evaluate
Patient
Retention

3 Months

New and
Previous
Leadership
Progress
Discussion

Open Clinic Appointments

6 Months

Evaluate Patient Retention

Assess Clinic and Virtual Appointment Options

Questions?

Su Thwe Myo Khin

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