

How to Successfully Implement a BHI Program

Making Holistic Health Care a Reality

Critical Elements

- Strong leadership
- Communicative team
- Realistic goals
- Adequate funding and resources
- Shared technology and telehealth visits
- Expansion through training and students
- Flexibility for both staff and patients
- And most importantly, patience, enthusiasm, and a desire to help others!



What is BHI?

Behavioral Health Integration (BHI) brings primary care providers and mental health care providers together to provide patients with collaborative care. Studies show that BHI services increase positive patient outcomes.

CIHS' Levels of Integration

- Minimal Collaboration
- Basic Collaboration at a Distance
- Basic Collaboration Onsite
- Close Collaboration Onsite with Some System Integration
- Close Collaboration Approaching an Integrated Practice
- Full Collaboration in a Transformed/Merged Integrated Practice

Overcoming Obstacles



During the implementation process, barriers are likely to arise.

Predicting challenges and finding solutions as a team is critical for the success and sustainment of a BHI program.

Questions to Ask Yourself

Is my practice located in a rural area?

Will my program need to financially sustain itself in coming years?

Is there a practice that has already successfully completed implementation that we can collaborate with?

How will roles be assigned and how can my staff be supported throughout the process?

Commonly cited challenges include:

Limited access to care and resources

Lack of staff education on the model of care

Confusion regarding roles and responsibilities

Failure to inform patients of the program

Inadequate referral of patients to BHI

High staff turnover

Lack of capable leadership

Challenges with billing and charting



Collaboration is key!



This handout is brought to you by Bailey Shafar.

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The information presented here summarizes her Honors thesis.

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Thank you!