

THE MEADOWS MENTAL HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE FOR TEXAS



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**House Committee on County Affairs:  
Texas Mental Health Workforce Needs**

Andy Keller, PhD | March 9, 2017

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# About MMHPI

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## ■ History

- The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute traces its origins to the vision of The Meadows Foundation and its philanthropic leadership throughout the state of Texas on mental health and other vital public issues.

## ■ Mission

- To support the implementation of policies and programs that help Texans obtain effective, efficient mental health care when and where they need it.

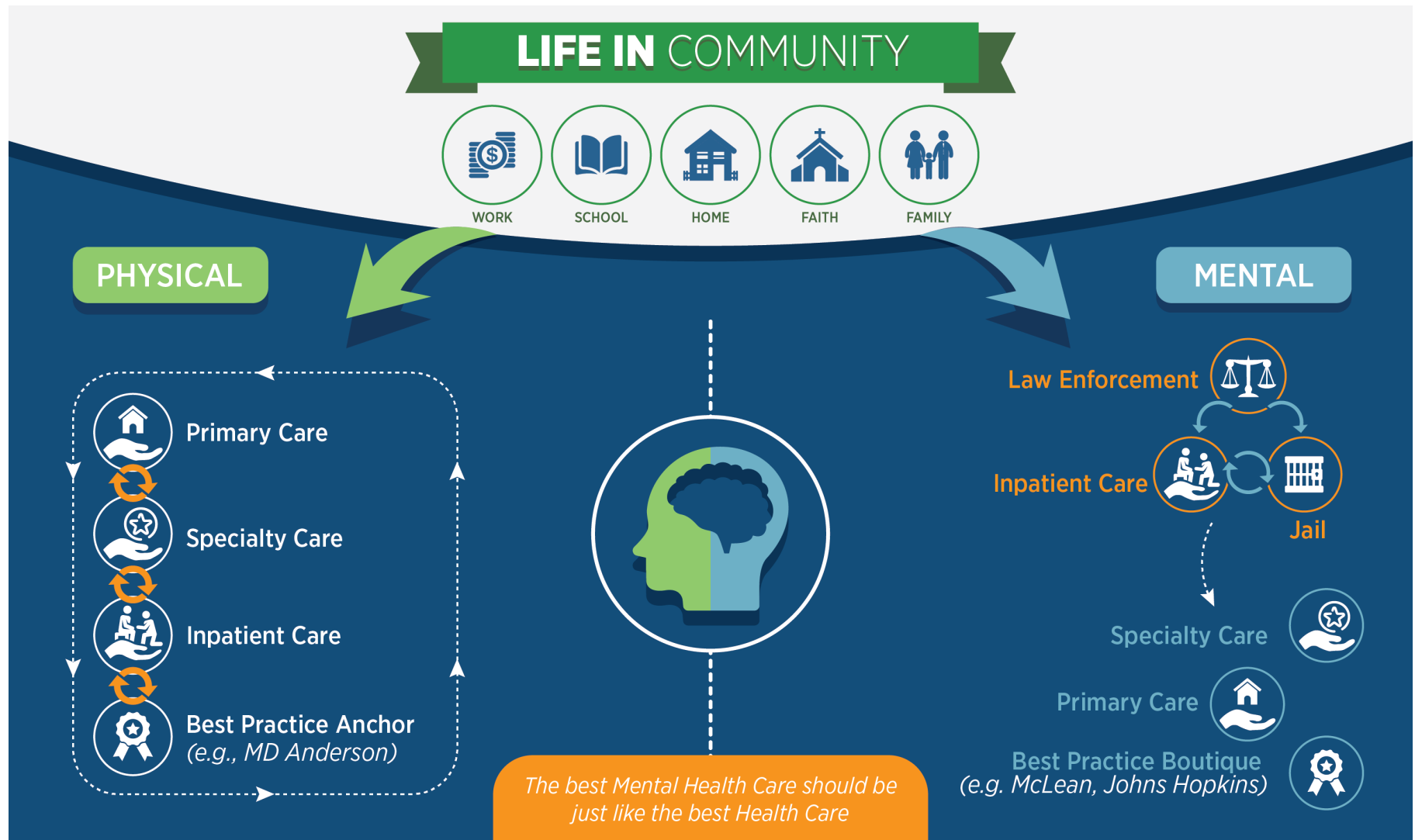
## ■ Vision

- For Texas to be the national leader in treating people with mental health needs.

## ■ Key Principles

- Accessible & effective behavioral health care
- Accountability to taxpayers
- Delivery through local systems & collaboration
- Data driven quality outcomes
- Necessary robust workforce

# Health Care vs. Mental Health Care



# The Local Burden of Unmet Mental Health Needs on Texas Counties

**30,000**

Texas children are at risk for entry into the “school to prison pipeline”



**300,000**

Texans in need receive no treatment at all

## THE COST of UNMET MENTAL HEALTH NEED

**\$2.2 billion**

total cost to local Texas governments

**\$1.4 billion**

in emergency room costs

**\$700 million**

in local justice system costs

**— \$100 million** other



## “SUPER UTILIZATION”



do not receive care adequate to break the cycle of “super utilization”



**6 in 7**

who need ACT do not receive it

**9 in 10**

who need FACT do not receive it



Jail Costs for Individuals with Mental Illness

\$461 million

Juvenile Justice Costs for Youth with Serious Emotional Disturbances

\$236 million

Psychiatric Emergency Department Costs

\$965 million

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Emergency Department Costs

\$457 million

Other Costs (e.g. shelter services to homeless individuals and school district costs)

\$100 million

Total Costs to Local Governments

\$2.2 billion



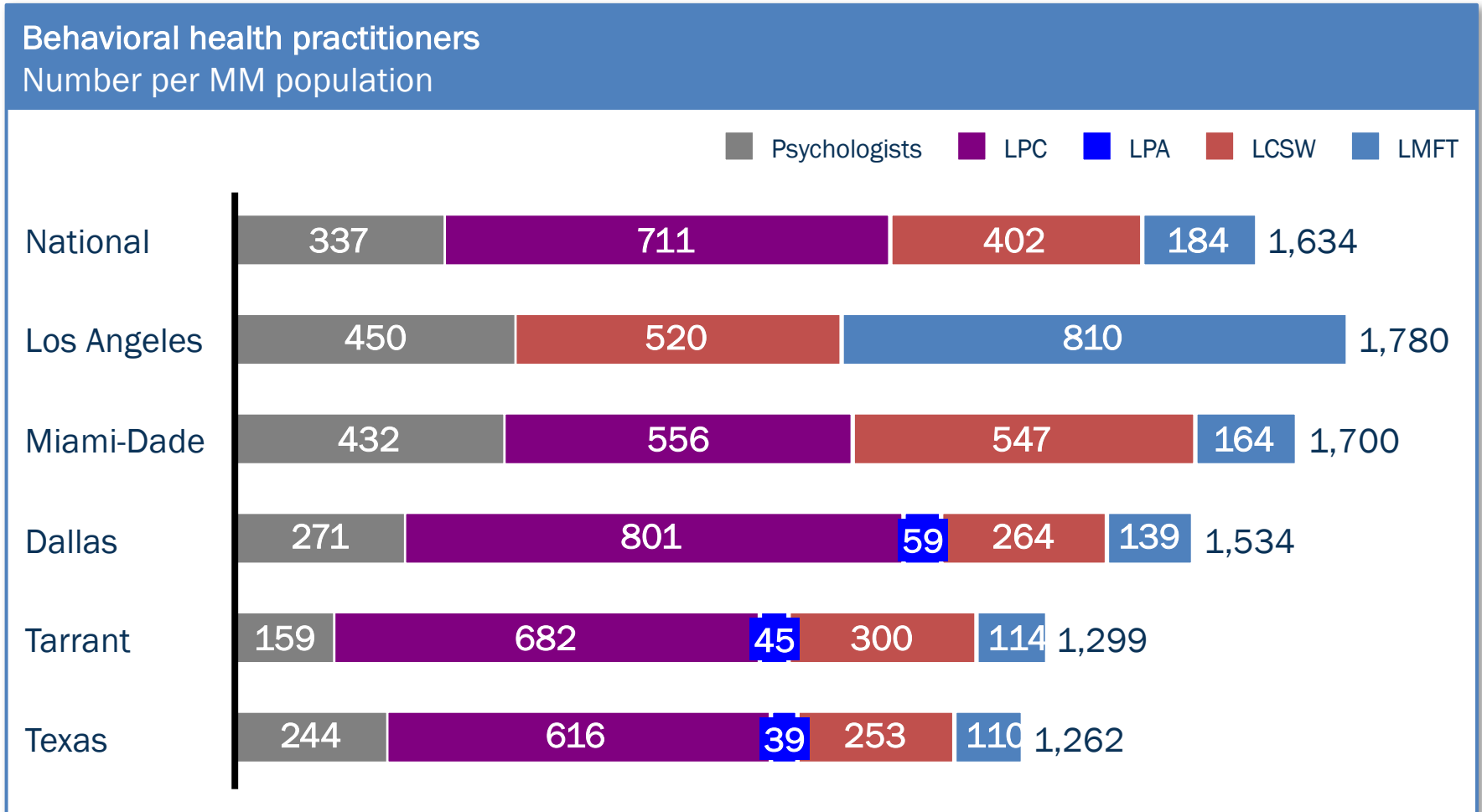
**TEXAS MENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE:  
A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

# The Biggest Challenge in Texas: Workforce

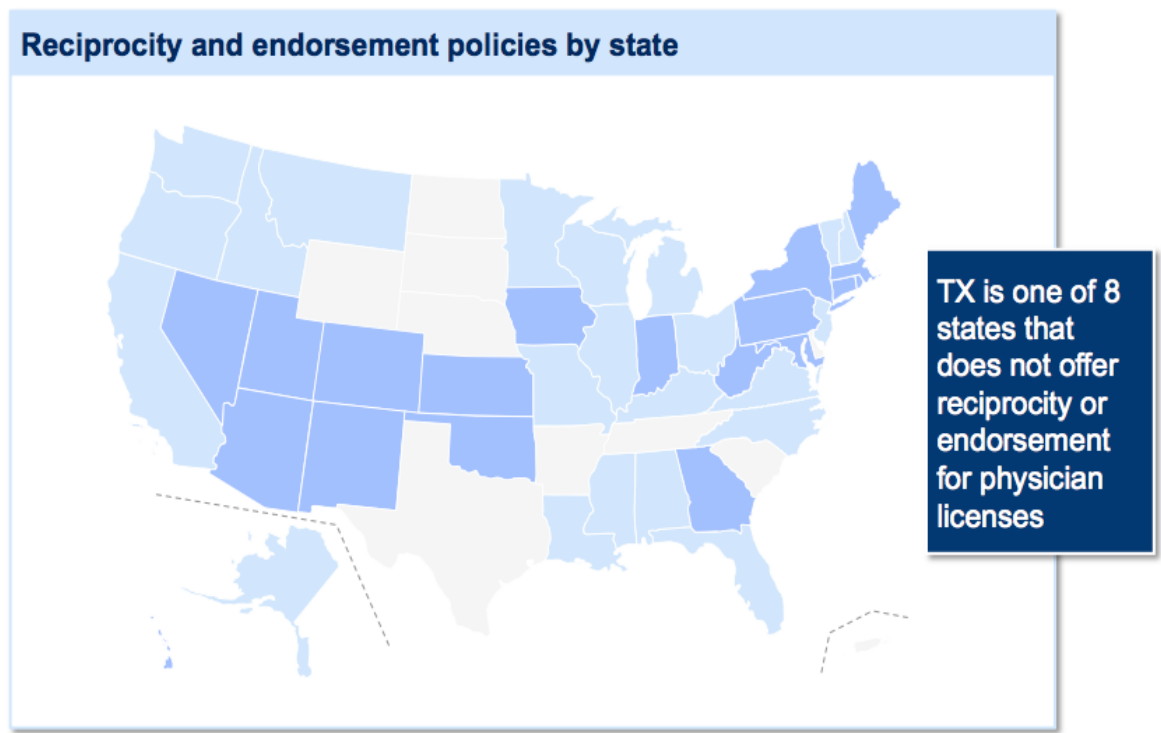
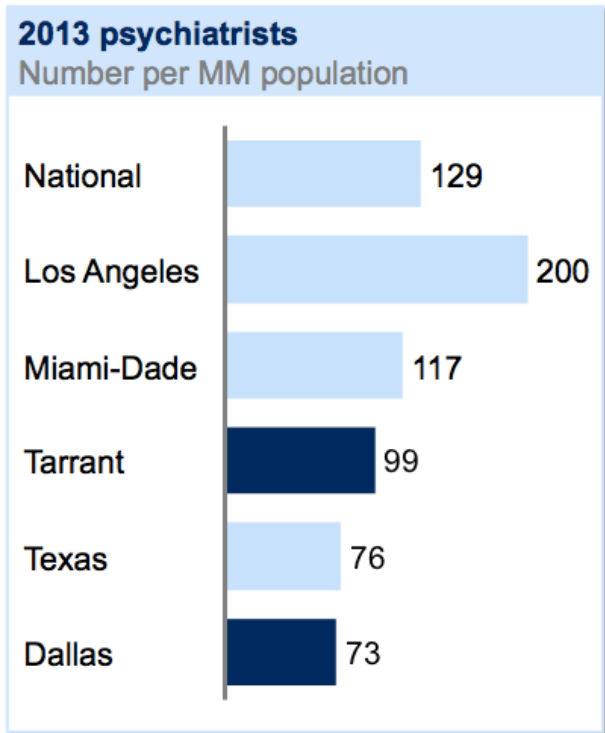
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- Inadequate numbers of providers:
  - **207** of our **254 counties** are designated, in whole or in part, as **Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas (MHPSAs)**.
  - **241 counties** have some level of shortage, both prescribers and core professionals. Over **80%** are **rural counties**.
  - The vast majority of providers live in **five counties**.
  - We have a dramatic **lack of diversity**, resulting in a shortage of **culturally and linguistically competent** professionals.
- Inadequate preparation of providers for integration.

# Low Levels of Mental Health Specialists



# Key Drivers of Workforce Shortage



Similar restrictions exist for other mental health professionals.



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TEXAS STATE  
— of —  
MIND



*The truth is: mental illness affects more people than you may think, and we need to talk about it. It's Okay to say..."* [okaytosay.org](http://okaytosay.org)

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