



THE MEADOWS MENTAL HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE

**House Committee on General Investigating & Ethics:
Mental Health in the Wake of Hurricane Harvey**

Andy Keller, PhD | January 18, 2018

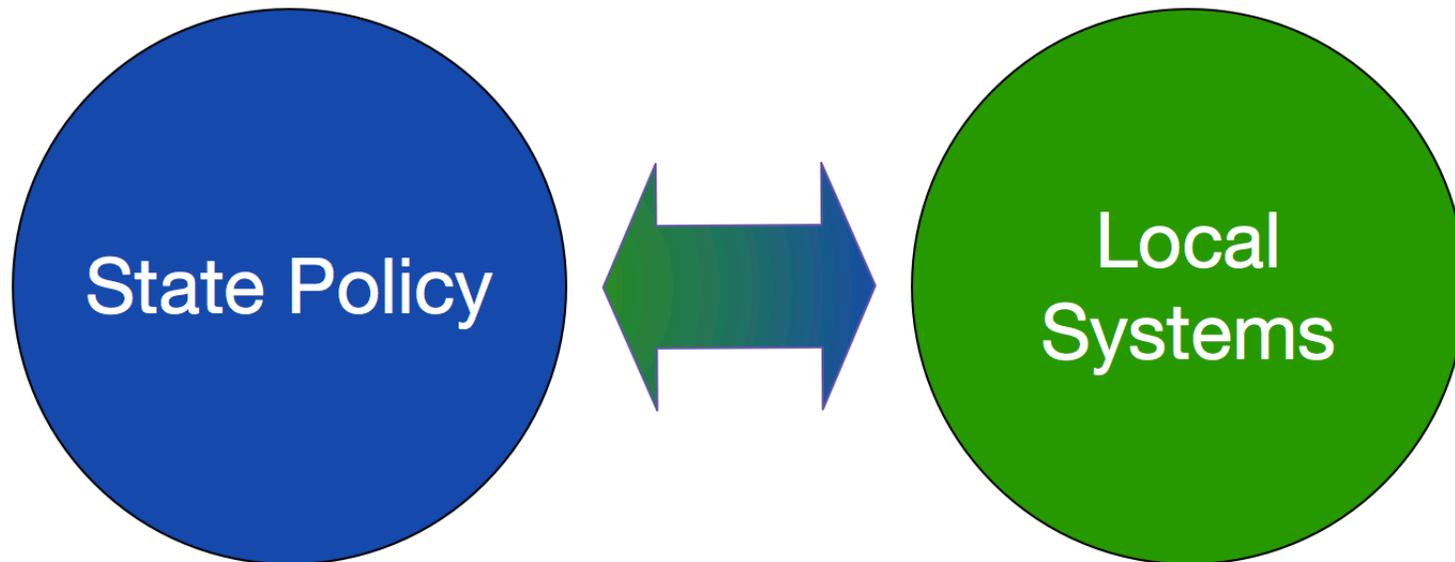
Vision, Mission, & Core Change Strategy

Vision

We envision Texas to be the national leader in treating people with mental health needs.

Mission Statement

To provide independent, non-partisan, and trusted policy and program guidance that creates systemic changes so all Texans can obtain effective, efficient behavioral health care when and where they need it.



Hurricane Harvey Task Force

Hurricane Harvey Task Force on School Mental Health Supports

- **Agencies:** Texas Education Agency, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Health & Human Services Commission
- **Key Tasks to Date:**
 - Organizing and accessing **federal aid**.
 - **\$12 million in FEMA assistance** to Education Service Centers (ESCs).
 - Assessing needs across **200 independent school districts** and **1.6 million students**.
 - Coordinating linkages between **schools and health systems**.

This infrastructure was not in place, pre-Harvey.

Mental Health Needs, Post-Harvey

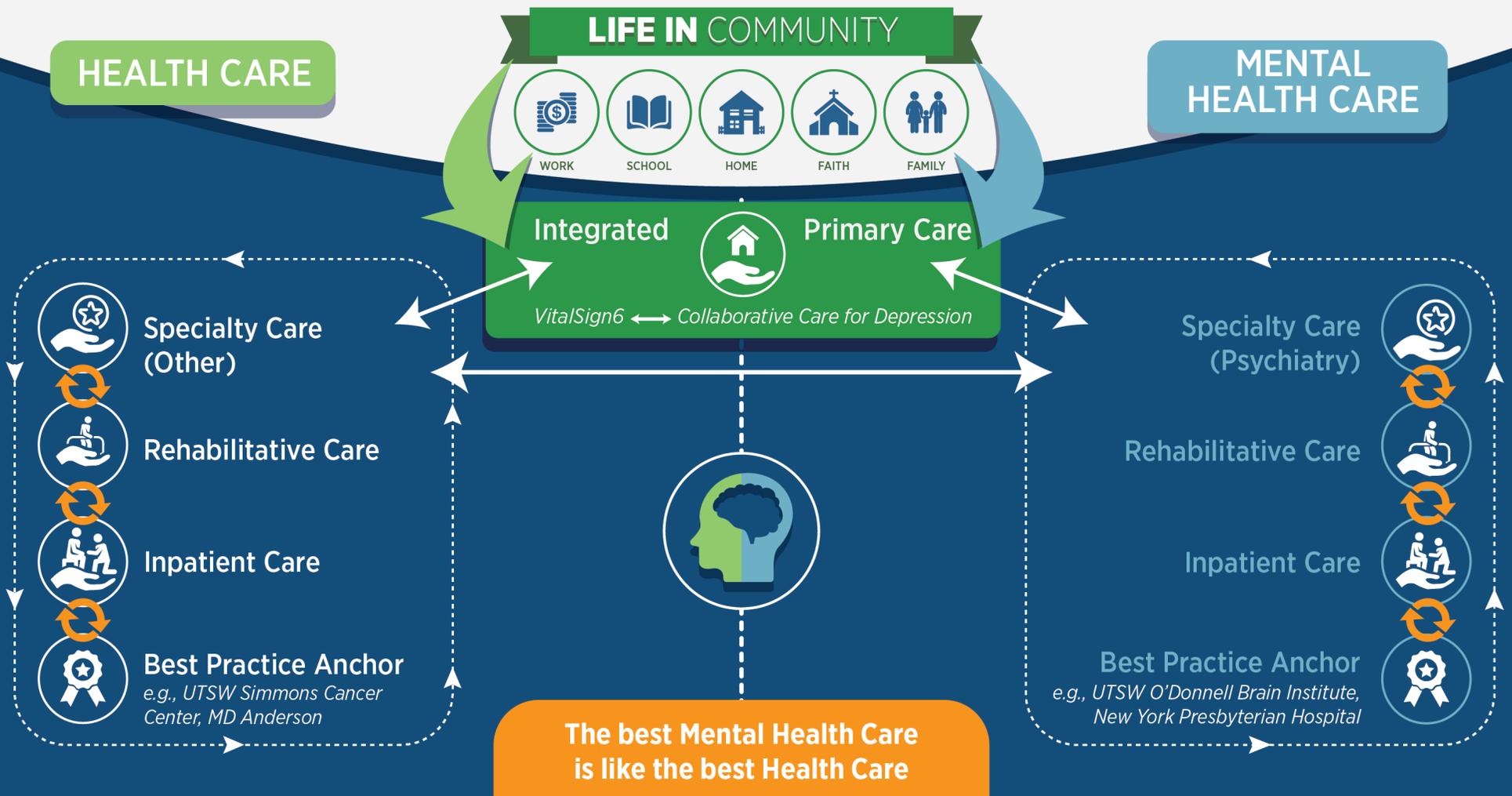
What do we expect the needs to be?

- We expected rates to begin to increase **60 - 90 days out** (and they have).
- For **children**: We expect needs to **peak at 18 months**, then slowly reduce after 24 months.
- For **adults**: We expect needs to continue to **trend higher even after 24 months**.

This is primarily driven by the worsening of baseline mental health needs (80%), not new cases (only 20%).

What Should We Do?

THE IDEAL MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM



What Should We Do?

- **Focus on:**
 - Early identification and supports in **primary care**;
 - Increased access to **trauma-informed care**; and
 - **Additional supports** (e.g., housing) for those with **more severe needs**.
- **Ramp up capacity** as soon as possible using **federal funds**, **existing resources**, and **philanthropy**.
- Develop **sustainability plans** to better **leverage primary care** and pay for **out-of-box solutions**, such as pediatric consultation models.

Anchoring Local Planning



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- **\$2 million** in resources for planning, coordination, and evaluation.
- Coordinate plans among leading **health systems** *to partner across systems and leverage local philanthropy.*

TEXAS STATE
— of —
MIND

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okay
to say

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
