

# Integration of Behavioral Health & Primary Care

Harney District Hospital Family Care Clinic  
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## Background

Harney County, Oregon:

- 7,146 population
- 10,226 mile area
- One 25-bed critical access hospital
- 5 full-time family medicine doctors (Harney District Family Care Clinic)
- 4 mid-level providers
- 1 outpatient mental health facility
- 6.9% unemployment
- 18.6% population below poverty level



## Project Description

Harney District Hospital Family Care is a Tier 3 patient-centered primary care medical home and is pursuing integration of mental/behavioral health professionals into the clinical setting. Mental health integration has been shown to improve physical and mental health outcomes as measured by compliance, satisfaction, decreased emergency department utilization and reduced rate of hospital readmission. This project will involve recruiting and retaining behavioral health professionals in this rural remote area as well as creating an effective work flow that enhances communication between all providers.

## Objectives

- Recruit and hire a telemedicine psychiatrist to see patients from our patient-centered primary care medical home clinic
- Recruit and hire a licensed clinical social worker or behaviorist to our patient-centered primary care medical home clinic
- Devise integrated care workflow for primary care providers and mental health provider
- Achieve a minimum of 6 warm hand-offs daily from primary care providers to behaviorist

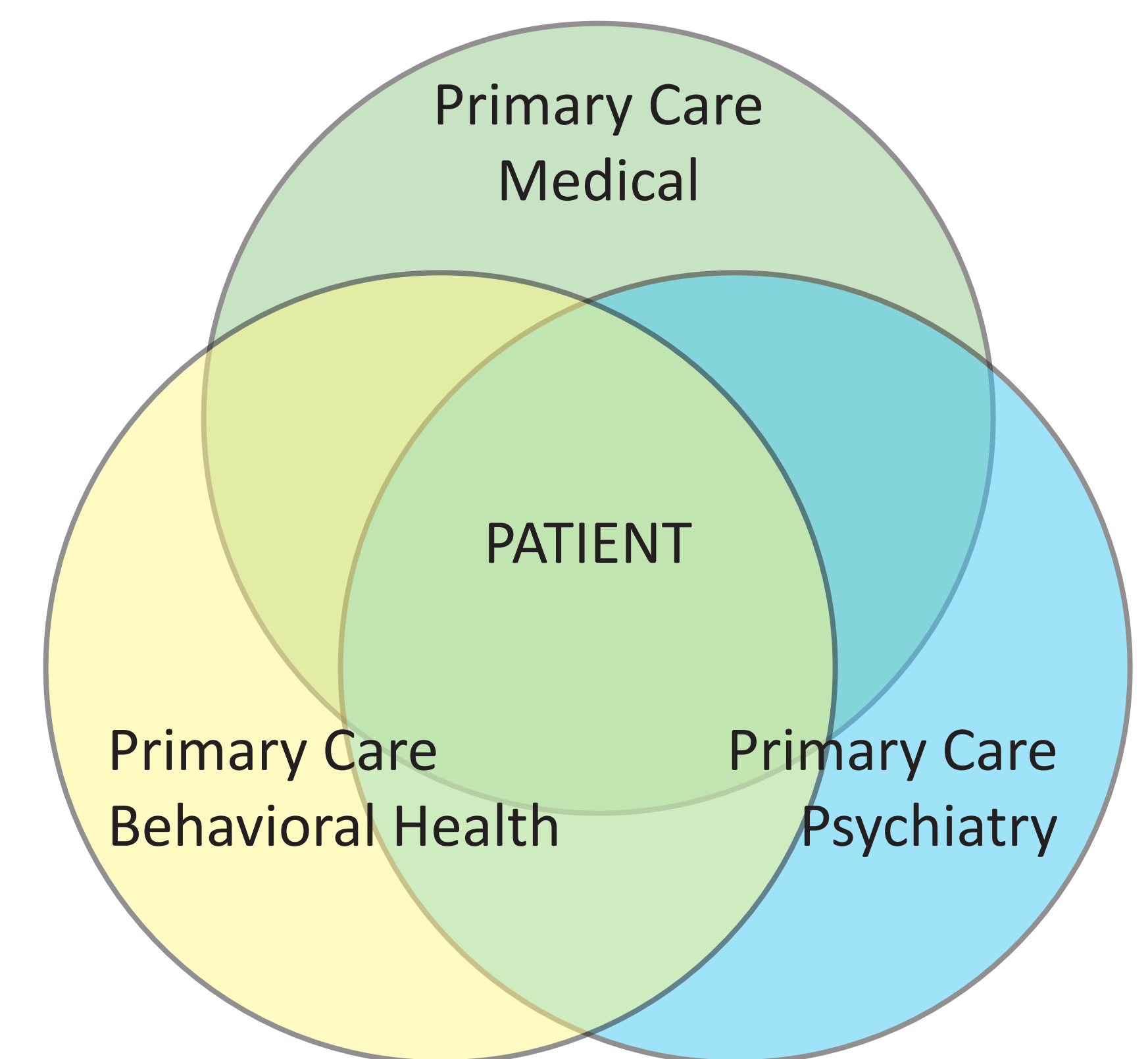
## Progress to Date

- A telemedicine psychiatrist is seeing patients once a week in Harney District Hospital Family Care clinic.
- A master's level social worker has been hired as a full-time behaviorist and is working on licensed clinical social worker qualifications.
- Workflows for integration are developing and being tested through the medical home team approach.

## Learning Lessons

Culture is hard to change. Colocation is traditional and understood. Integration requires approaching a problem with an alternate perspective.

A solid foundation with the team approach to health care is useful prior to integration of behavioral health.



## Contact

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