



ncg *CARE*

Improving Outcomes with Measurement-Based Care: *A No-Brainer!*

12th Annual Commonwealth of Virginia CSA Conference

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Learning Objectives

- ★ Define Measurement Based Care (MBC)
- ★ Learn the benefits of MBC to individuals receiving services, practitioners, and organizations
- ★ Explore the paradox of the underutilization of MBC among providers
- ★ Identify barriers and strategies to adopt MBC into practice

Sound Familiar?

This has been occurring in the Physical Health world for well over a century!

Vitals

Whether presenting in an ER or for a routine wellness exam, physicians always start with collecting vitals. Blood pressure, oxygen levels, and temperature are critical elements in the overall picture of health.

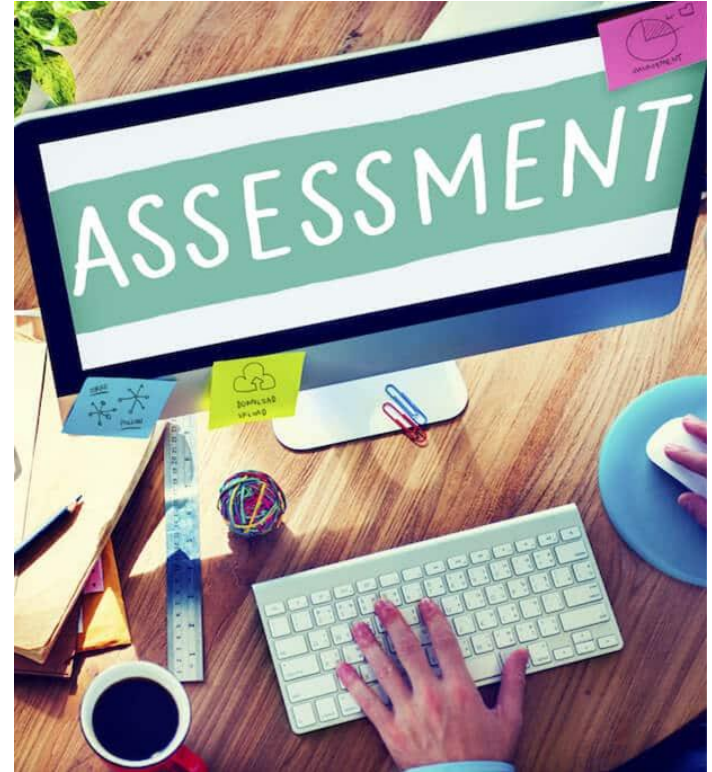


Sound Familiar?

This has been occurring in the Physical Health world for well over a century!

Comprehensive Assessment

The vitals are important but aren't the whole story. They are combined with collecting patient and family history, interviewing the patient for additional information, and exercising medical expertise.



Six Days!

Patrick Lawler, a construction worker, suffered from a toothache for six days before making an appointment with his dentist to seek some relief.

Patrick denied any recent injury to his mouth or teeth and described the pain as “nagging”.

After a preliminary examination and getting a patient history, the dentist took an x-ray to help make an accurate diagnosis.



(Fisher et al., 1995; Zoffness, 2019)

Sound Familiar?

This has been occurring in the Physical Health world for well over a century!

Hypertension

- A patient is discovered to have high blood pressure at their wellness exam
- Medication is prescribed to help lower their blood pressure
- The patient returns for a follow-up visit and their blood pressure is taken and compared to previous visits.
- The physician makes a decision about how to continue treatment





The systematic administration of symptom rating scales and other assessment tools to guide treatment.



Source: Seinfeld Episode 28: The Alternate Side

What is Measurement Based Care

1

Initial Assessment/Baseline

A provider will generally have an individual complete one or more rating scales prior to or in conjunction with the first appointment.

2

Routine Collection

Providers continue using symptom rating scales to track patient changes from baseline over time to show response to treatment either positively or negatively.

3

Review, Share & Discuss

Discuss the results with the individual working collaboratively to reflect on whether the scores match the individual's experience.

4

Adapt & Improve Treatment

Provides validated feedback on whether the individual is improving. This allows a provider to change their treatment approach if the desired results are not being achieved. Decide **together** what to do next.

(Barber & Resnick, 2022; Jensen-Doss et al., 2020; Lambert & Shimokawa, 2011)

Standardized Measures of Symptoms or Function

- Depression [PHQ-9]
- Anxiety [GAD-7]
- Trauma [PCL-5]
- AUDIT or DAST [Substance Use]
- Level of Functioning [DLA-20]
- Outcome Rating Scale [ORS]

Resources:

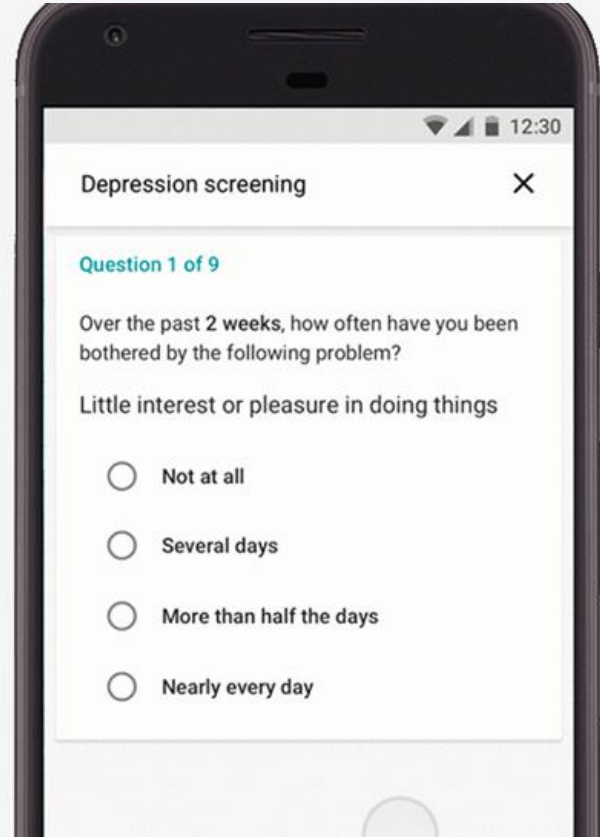
[MDCalc - Online Screenings](#)

[Alliance Health Plan - Online Screenings](#)

[Kennedy Forum - Outcome Measures](#)

[Owl® Measure Library M5.0 \(Feb 2023\).pdf](#)

(Boswell, et. al., 2023; Kelley & Bickman, 2009; Lambert et al., 2018; Miller et al., 2005; Trivedi & Daly, 2007)



Individualized Idiographic Measures

Idiographic measures are designed to capture information that is specific to a particular person.

- Goal attainment setting
- Self-monitoring journals
- Personalized assessments of life satisfaction or well-being

Promotes a collaborative and empowering therapeutic approach.

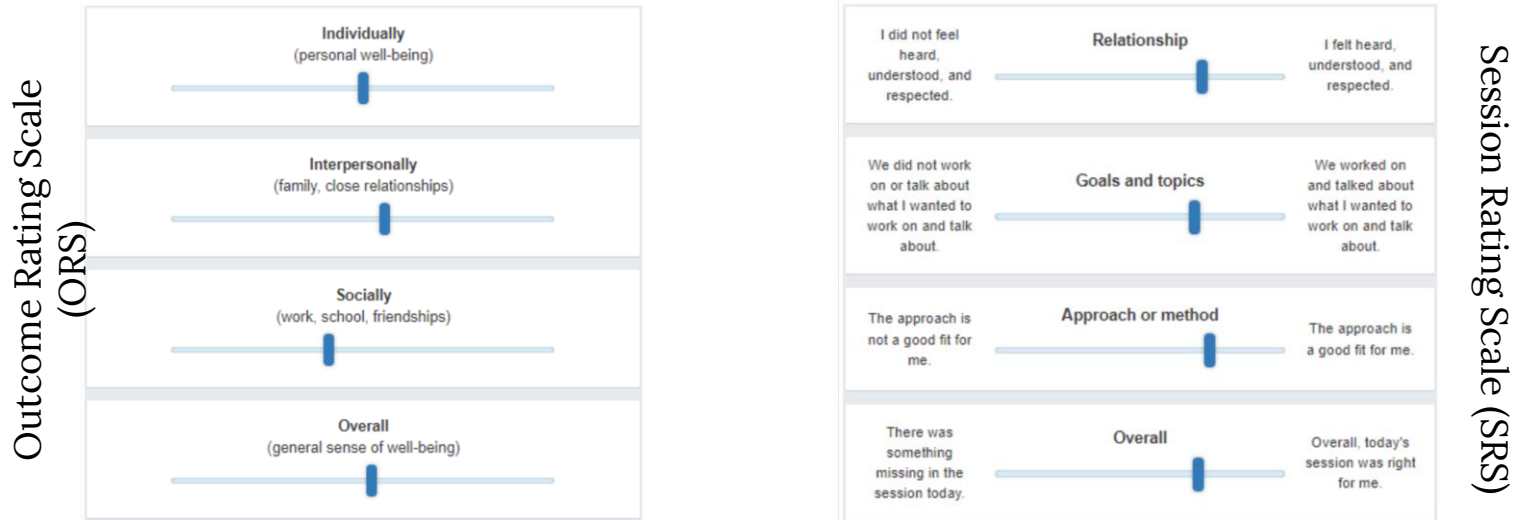
(Boswell & Scharff, 2022; Jensen-Doss et al., 2020; Lloyd, Duncan, & Cooper, 2019; Lutz et al., 2019; Metz et al., 2019; Tabak, Link, Holden & Granholm, 2015; Nakamura, Daleiden & Chorpita, 2007; Turner-Stokes, 2009; Weisz et al., 2011; Wolpert et al., 2017)



Credit: [Therapy Insights](#)

Feedback Informed Treatment (FIT)

FIT is the systematic collection of feedback from the individual to inform and enhance the treatment process. ⚠️ *These are proprietary rating scales and cannot be reproduced without permission.*



(Boswell et al., 2015; Brattland et al., 2019; Goldberg et al., 2016; Miller et al., 2005)

Alternative & Emerging Measures

While most often data is “patient generated” it can also include alternative sources such as:

- Wearables
 - Sleep monitoring
 - Measure skin temperature and heart rate and individuals can give feedback on their mood
- Caregivers & Collateral Contacts
 - ADHD NICHQ Scale (Caregiver & Teacher versions)

(Boswell & Scharff, 2022; Parikh et al., 2020)



Evidence Based Practice

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration recognizes MBC as an evidence based practice.



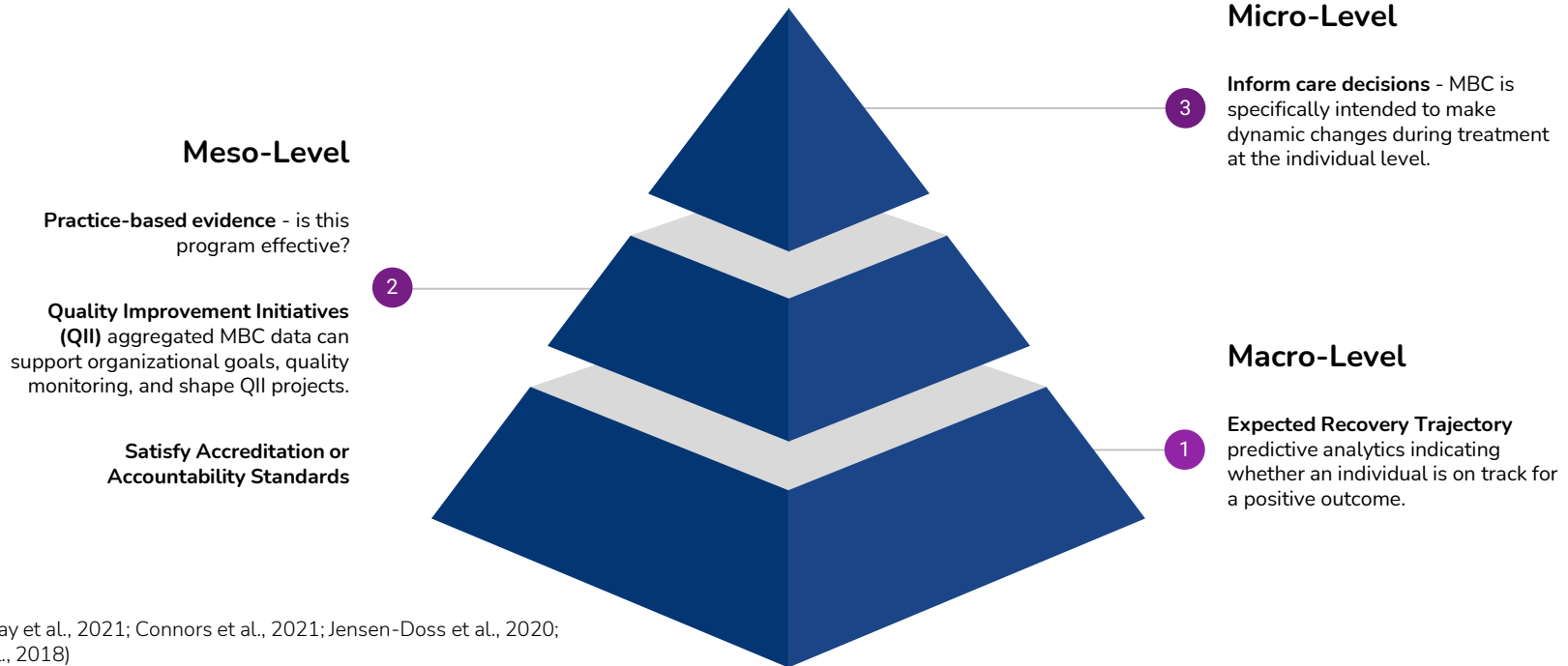
- Measurement-based Outcomes → Measurement-based **Care**
- The use of MBC in the context of ongoing treatment to guide adjustments and responsiveness to individual progress **is a clinical skill**

(Barber et al., 2023; Brooks Holliday et al., 2021)

Why is Measurement-Based Care a Good Idea?



MBC Across the Continuum



(Castonguay et al., 2021; Connors et al., 2021; Jensen-Doss et al., 2020; Lewis et al., 2018)

Increased Effectiveness

- Accelerated symptom improvement
 - transtheoretical, transdiagnostic, and setting agnostic
- Rates of positive response are **several times** those of individuals who received treatment without MBC
- Clinical or functional deterioration during treatment is **cut in half**
- Enhanced alliance & engagement

MBC is an evidence-based practice associated with **symptom reduction**, **improved retention**, and **greater patient satisfaction**.

Source: [The Need for a Measurement-Based Care Professional Practice Guideline](#)

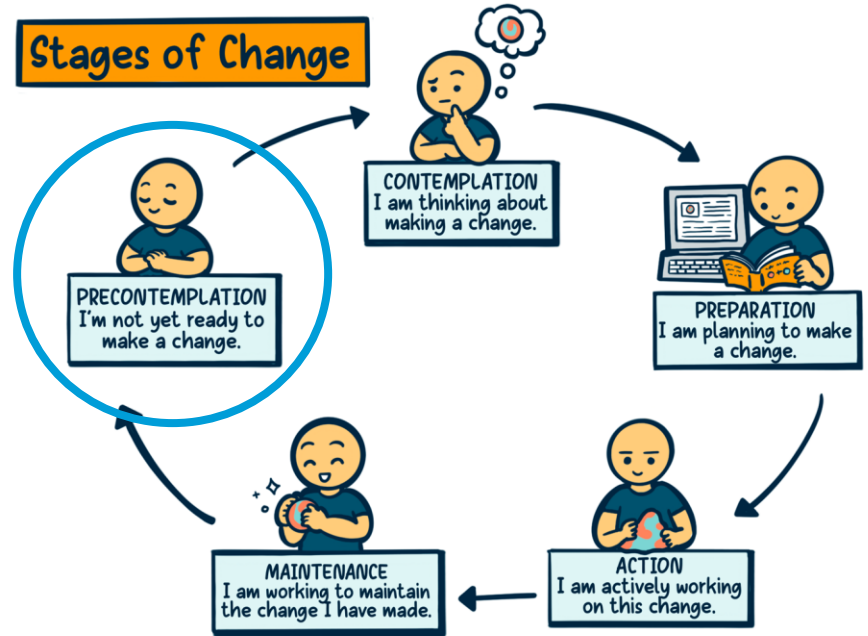
(Bickman et al., 2011; Brattland et. al., 2018; Boswell et al., 2023; de Jong et al., 2021; Janse et al., 2020; Lambert & Shimokawa, 2011)

Did you know?

Individuals entering treatment in the precontemplation stage are **most likely** to drop out.

MBC has been shown to be **most effective** with individuals identified as “not on track” (NOT) for a positive outcome.

Overall, a proven benefit is a **reduction** in client dropout or early termination.



Source: Jennifer Yoshimura - [the INFORMED SLP](#)

(de Jong et al., 2021; Jensen-Doss et al., 2020; Lambert & Shimokawa, 2011; May et al., 2007)

Benefits to the Individual

- Improved individual **satisfaction** with treatment
- Individuals feel more **respected**
- Persons served have a **better understanding** of their diagnosis
- Contributes to breaking down **stigmas** associated with mental illness
- Experience of person-centered, collaborative, and transparent care



Source: [MI Blues Perspectives](#)

(Boswell et al., 2023; CAAPS, 2018; Dowrick et al., 2009; Eisen et al., 2000; Finn, 2007; Finn et al., 2012; Gopalan et al., 2016; Knaup et al., 2009; Moltu et al., 2018)

Benefits to the Clinician

- Restores **joy** in practice!
- Greater **diagnostic accuracy**
- Opportunity to address **therapeutic misalignment**
- Increased **practitioner effectiveness**
- Enhanced **clinical skills**
- More **successful** and **ethical** practice
- Reveal opportunities for needed **referrals**



Source: [Verywell Health](#)

(Boswell et al., 2023; Brattland et al., 2018; Duncan, 2014; Goldberg, Babins-Wagner, et al., 2016; Moltu et al., 2018; Valenstein et al., 2009; Walfish et al., 2012)

Benefits to the Organization

- Higher **Net Promoter Score**
- Demonstrates **value**
 - Empirical data that can ultimately change the narrative of mental health treatment. It **PROVES** that individuals are **imPROVING**.
- Help meet a variety of accountability **reporting requirements**
- Use the data to identify **quality improvement** opportunities



Source: [Thriveworks Counseling](#)

(AHRQ, 2014; CAAPS, 2018; Connors et al., 2021; Dubé, 2021; Eisen et al., 2000; HEDIS, 2017; Jensen-Doss et al., 2020; JTC, 2017; NQF, 2018)

The Paradox

*If MBC has been proven to be so effective,
why are so few providers using it?*

(Boswell et al., 2023; Fortney et al., 2015; Jensen-Doss et al., 2018; Lewis et al., 2019)



Less than 20% of mental and behavioral health providers use measurement-based care.

(Boswell et al., 2023; Fortney et al., 2015; Jensen-Doss et al., 2018; Lewis et al., 2019)

Organizational Barriers to Adoption

- Resource Limitations
 - Lack of an Electronic Health Record or automated feedback system
- Administrative Barriers
 - Limited training resources
 - Turnover
- Leadership Support
- Lack of Payment Incentives from Payers



Source: Jeff Hitchcock - [Wikimedia Commons](#)

(Boswell et al., 2023; Dowrick et al., 2009; Eisen et al., 2000; Knaup et al., 2009; Moltu et al., 2018)

Provider Barriers to Adoption

- Concerns about time and effort
- Skeptical attitudes regarding the effectiveness
- Worried about how the data will be used beyond informing client care
- Most believe clients will have a negative reaction



Source: Getty Images - [istockphoto.com](https://www.istockphoto.com)

(Boswell et al., 2023; Boswell, Kraus, Miller, et al., 2015; Cuperfain et al., 2021; Doherty, 2023; Lovett, 2023; Oslin et al., 2019; Valenstein et al., 2009; Wolpert, 2014)



Belief vs. Knowledge



BELIEF

Clinicians consider their practical wisdom and clinical judgment ("*phronesis*") to be more important than **objective assessments**.

KNOWLEDGE

In the absence of objective data:

- Providers may be less likely to identify stagnation and/or deterioration, and
- Overestimate their effectiveness

(Boswell et al., 2023; Boswell, Kraus, Miller, et al., 2015; Cuperfain et al., 2021; Doherty, 2023; Hatfield & Ogles, 2007; Lovett, 2023; Valenstein et al., 2009; Walfish et al., 2012; Wolpert, 2014; Zhu, 2021)

Phronesis Fallacy

- Providers **believed** 85% of their clients were improving; research suggests **actual rates** are between 40-60%.
- Providers **believed** that about 3% of their clients had deteriorated; research suggests **actual rates** are ~10% among adults and ~25% among youth.

(APA, 2023)



“Measurement-based care is designed not to replace clinical judgment but rather to augment it.”



Kimberly Hepner, PhD
Clinical Psychologist



Belief vs. Knowledge



BELIEF

Most providers believe that MBC was **negatively perceived** by individuals

KNOWLEDGE

Interviews with clients revealed an almost **universal positive attitude** toward MBC

93% of individuals believe it is important to monitor the results of their treatment.

(Boswell et al., 2023; Cuperfain et al., 2021; Lutz et al., 2015)

How do individuals feel?

Individuals were more positive about the questionnaires, seeing them as an efficient and structured supplement to clinical judgment and as evidence that [the professional] was **taking their problems seriously** through a full assessment.

(Dowrick et al., 2009)



“Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better,”



Maya Angelou

Ready or Not... it's coming!



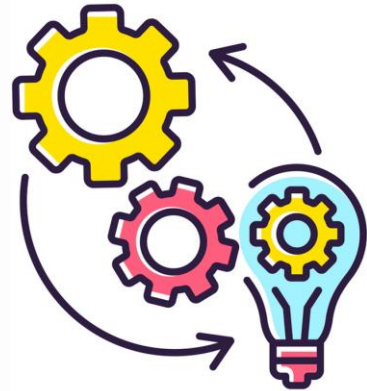
Why Wait, Start Now

- **2013** - Collaborative Care Model requires the use of measurement-based care
- **2016** - Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention launched a national initiative to establish MBC as a standard of care
- **2017** - National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) implemented depression response (PHQ-9) to HEDIS measures
- **2018** - The Joint Commission added standard CTS. 03.01. 09 which requires measurement based care in service provision
- **2019** - National Alliance, American Psychiatric Association, and Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute launched the “**Path Forward**”
- **2020** - North Carolina requires DLA-20 for Adult Community Support & Skill Building Service Programs
- **2021** - Utilization Review Accreditation Commission (URAC) incorporated MBC into their standards
- **2023** - Publication advocating for MBC to be recognized as a Professional Practice Guideline



(Atler et al., 2021; Boswell et al., 2023; CAAPS, 2018; HEDIS, 2017; Jensen-Doss et al., 2020; Martin-Cook, 2021; Resnick & Hoff, 2020; URAC, 2021)

MBC Implementation Strategies



Just get started!



"Okay, you stick to the old method Hank. But believe me, this is the future."

S.O.C.C.E.R

SELECT

Select a brief, validated outcome measures that are connected to your treatment goals and objectives.

OPERATIONALIZE

Change expectancy - that is, how you expect your client to progress over time.

COLLECT

Collect outcomes at regular intervals. This can be done before or during a session depending on what works best.

COLLABORATE

Collaborate with your client to make sense of their assessment results during your session.

(DuBois, 2020)

EXAMINE

Examine the trend in progress over time - does it line up with your expectation?

RESPOND

By changing or adding to your treatment if progress is not being made as expected.

Don't Overthink It!

Failure to integrate this MBC standard was the third most frequently cited deficiency, with 70% of the citations noting ***failure to even select an instrument***”



(Martin-Cook, 2021; Williams, 2020)

Comprehensive Needs Assessment Elements

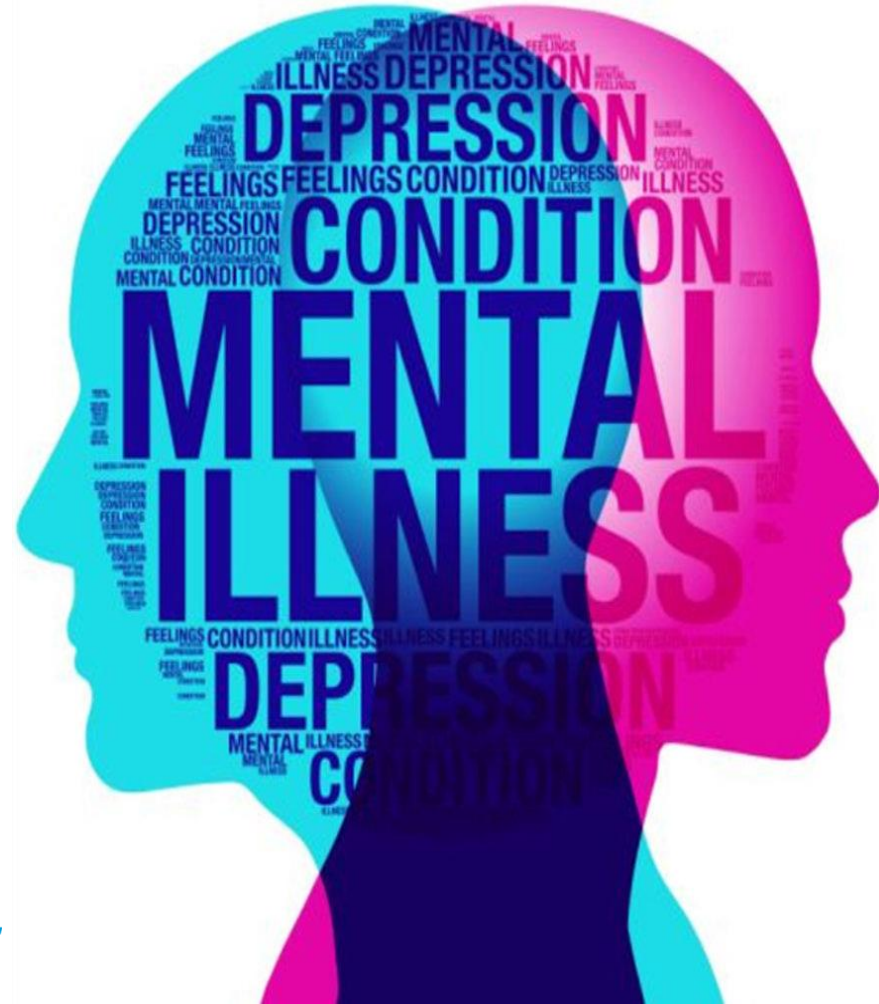
- Presenting Issue(s)/Reason for Referral: Chief Complaint.
 - *Indicate duration, frequency, and severity of symptoms*
- Current Living Situation, Family History and Relationships
 - ... *“affecting the individual and family's functioning”*
- Drug and Alcohol Profile
- Mental Status Profile
 - *Include findings and clinical tools used*
- Diagnosis

Did you know?

More than $\frac{1}{3}$ of individuals with a severe psychiatric disorder have been misdiagnosed.

- Schizoaffective is the most commonly diagnosed (75%)
- Major Depressive Disorder (55%)
- Schizophrenia (22%)
- Bipolar Disorder (18%)

(Ayano et. al., 2021)



What contributes to misdiagnosis?

- Implicit Bias
- Cultural Competence
- Symptom Evolution
- Limited to a cross-sectional snapshot
 - E.g. Bipolar misdiagnosis

A clinician's job is to **draw out as much information from the individual as possible**, to put together a complete picture of the individual's condition.

Source: [The Impact of Mental Health Misdiagnosis | Hillside®](#)

(Akers, 2019; Gara et. al., 2019, 2012)

Best Line of Defense

Symptom rating scales play a significant role in improving diagnostic accuracy by providing a standardized and quantifiable method for assessing and measuring symptoms.

1. Standardization
2. Objectivity
3. Comprehensive
4. Establishes a Baseline
5. Monitoring Progress
6. Communication and collaboration
7. Research and comparison
8. Level of Care

Giving Youth a Voice

When assessing and working with youth, there are multiple stakeholders who may hold different perspectives on how the child is doing.

- Getting feedback from *both* the youth and their caregivers can give a more robust picture
- Help families understand why certain symptoms are being addressed



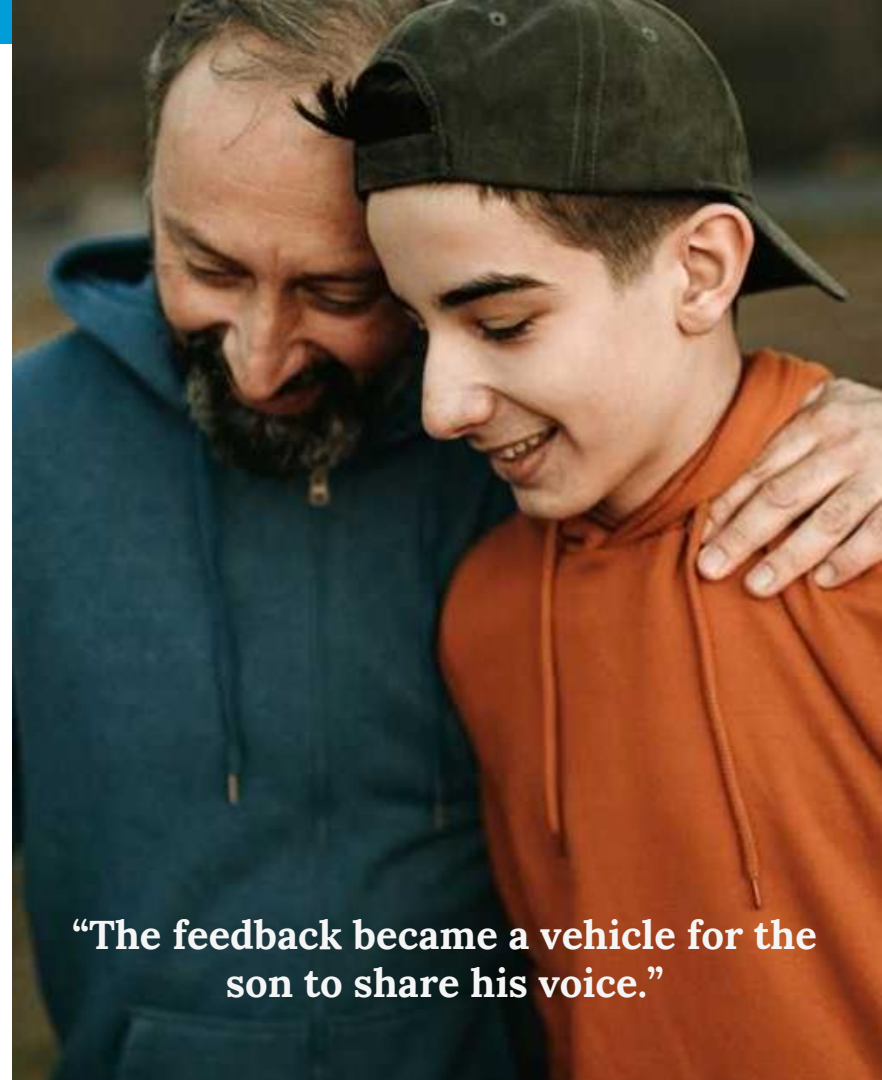
Meet Omar

An adolescent was referred for services because he refused to attend to school.

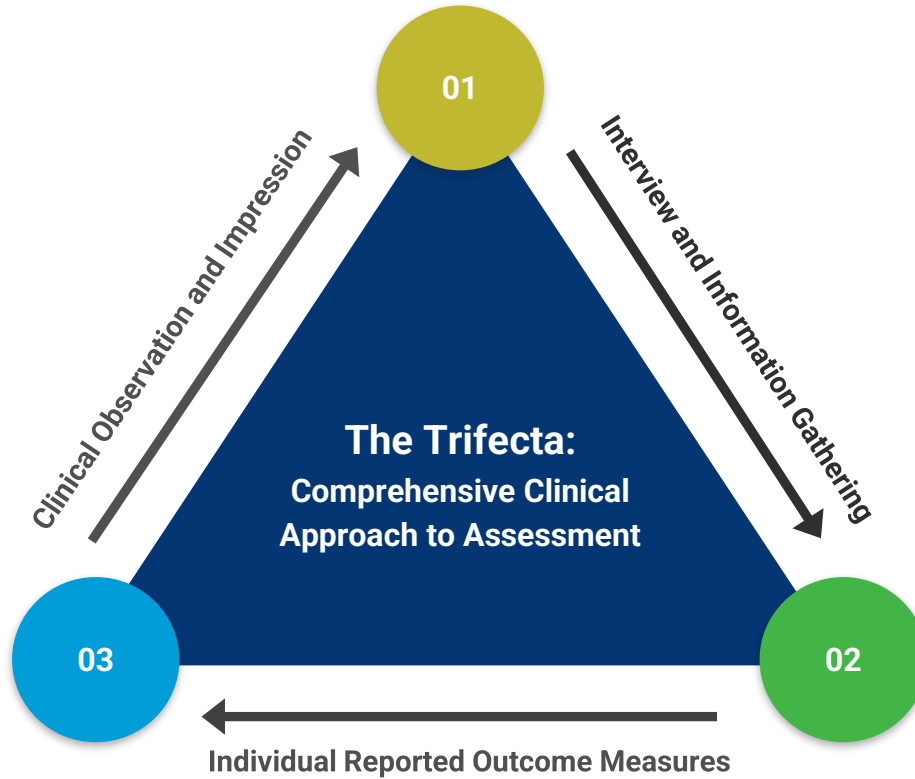
- His mother just moved out of the home to live with her new boyfriend
- The boy was playing video games for up to 10 hours a day to cope with her absence
- The clinician asked both the father and son to complete the same symptom rating scale.
- This gave the boy the opportunity to report he was feeling unhappy, was having difficulty getting along with others, having trouble sleeping among other issues.
- The father rated these symptoms much lower than his son.
- The therapist turned her computer around to show them the differences in graphical form.

The father looked at his son and said, 'I had no idea,' and the boy began to cry.

(Jensen-Doss et al., 2020; Stringer, 2023)



“The feedback became a vehicle for the son to share his voice.”

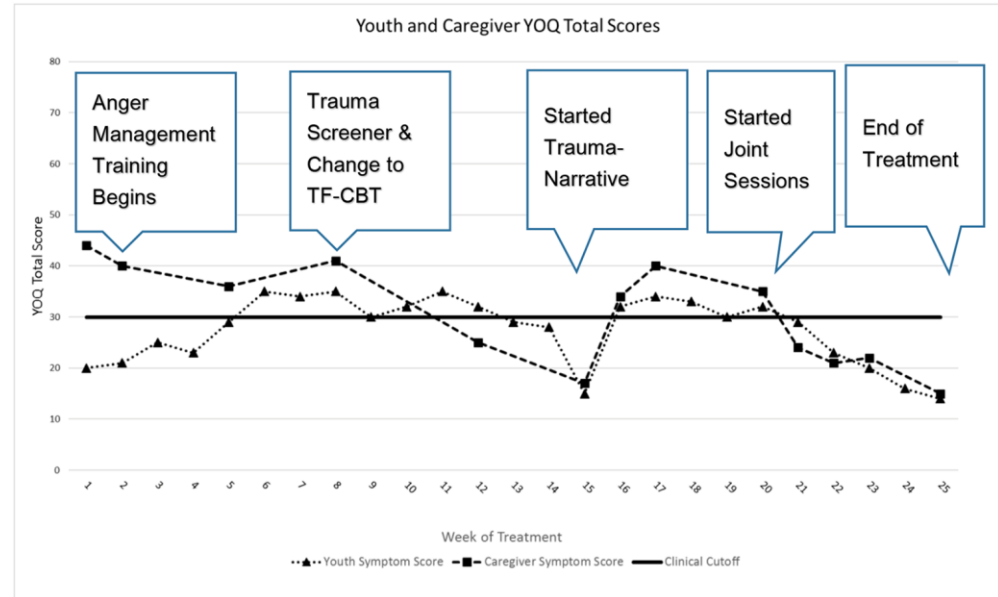


Meet Madeline

Youth Outcome Questionnaire® Self-Report 2.0

- Clients between the ages of 12 and 17 years complete the Y-OQ® SR 2.0
- Parents or others with reasonably extensive interaction with the patient complete the questionnaire at intake or admission to establish a severity baseline, and then complete it repeatedly at regular intervals to track the child's progress.

(Jensen-Doss et al., 2020)



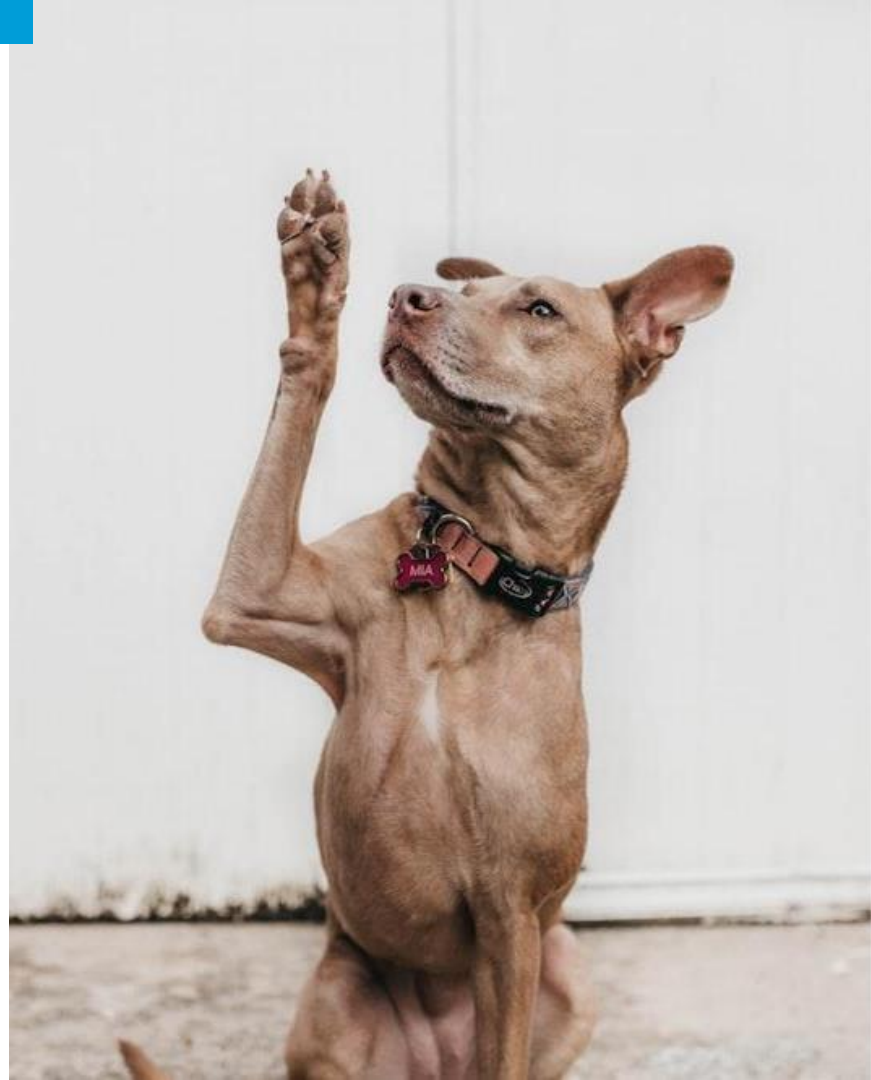


Source: [Implementing Measurement Based Care in VA](#)

Questions??

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