

## Background

The Comal/Guadalupe County Translational Advisory Board (TAB) was established in 2009 by the IIMS CTSA grant and under the administration of the South Central AHEC. The purpose of the TAB is to be a representative body of citizens in a community which aims to improve community health through Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) and educational outreach in partnership with UTHSCSA. In 2012 the communities identified obesity, primary care access, nutrition education and family violence as high priorities for their communities.

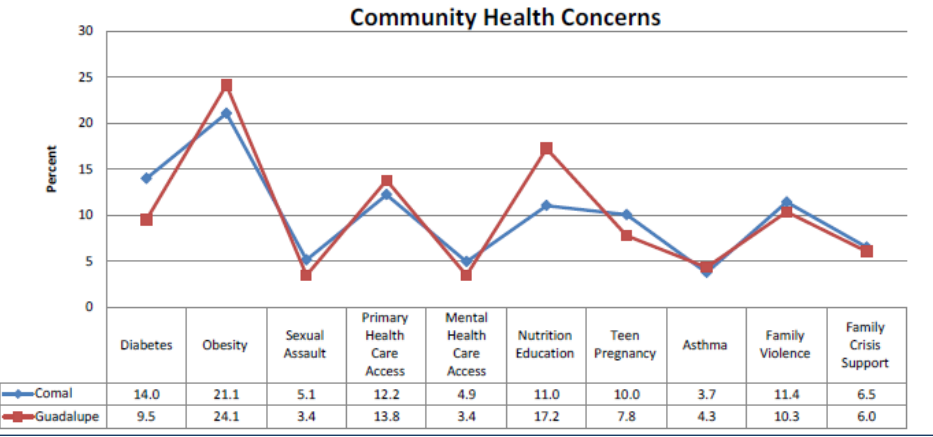


Figure 1. Community Health Concerns expressed from residents of Comal & Guadalupe County in 2012

In the past 5 years, Comal and Guadalupe have experienced a significant rise in suicide and family violence. We *must* review our priority plans based on most recent experience.

## Significance

Integrating behavioral health into primary care is a strong strategy to improve access to care for those facing behavioral health challenges. This project seeks to better coordinate care to ensure beneficial outcomes for all residents of the area versus just those who are insured.

As a TAB, we recognize that community providers are the strongest link to increasing the capacity of citizens to address health challenges, including behavioral health challenges. Therefore, we seek to increase the capacity of the local providers community in Comal and Guadalupe Counties to screen their patients and refer them to appropriate community-based resources through training and asset mapping.



## Methods

Building on the strong interest of the TAB membership, we will survey providers through RedCap using the Integrated Practice Assessment Tool (IPAT). IPAT is tool devised to assess how integrated a clinical practice is. The IPAT is designed to be simple to use. There are a total of 8 questions (the 8th being a compound question) in the full decision tree, but responses to no more than 4 questions will determine the level of integration. The IPAT is best completed collaboratively by 2 or more persons (whether or not a formal care team), who are intimately knowledgeable about the operation of the practice.

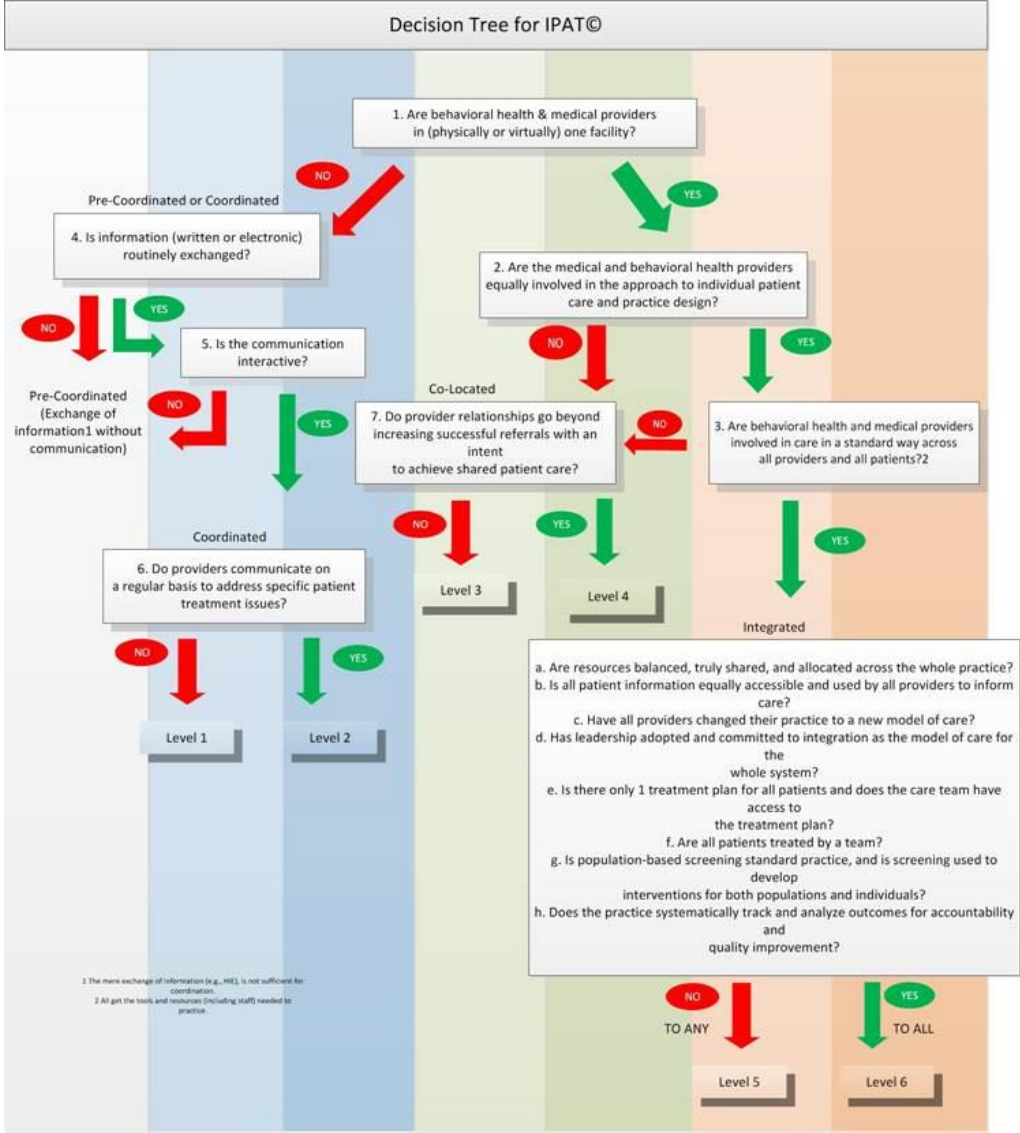


Figure 2. IPAT Decision Tree Model

## Disseminating Our Results

The integrative framework of TAB increases the extent of engagement from community stakeholders in research. Through this model, TAB members not only share their knowledge and experience, and guide any activities but they also become Principal Investigators (PI) or Co-PI's in research set by the community.

Comal/Guadalupe TAB's unique framework is also key in disseminating research. Because the TAB is made up of various individuals and organizations, researchers can gather data and disseminate research findings through multiple channels and avenues they wouldn't necessarily have access to without the TAB.<sup>1</sup>

Figure 3 compares the steps in developing dissemination strategies with and without the partnership of Comal/Guadalupe TAB.



Figure 3. Steps in developing a dissemination strategy

## Findings

With the partnership of Comal/Guadalupe TAB:

- Researchers have an increased access to the available resources for dissemination efforts.
- Research is disseminated at a quicker and larger scale through the established networks of each TAB member.
- Researchers can be viewed as trusted partners thus having greater participation efforts.
- TABs can gather preliminary data easily and in a timely manner.

## Conclusion

TAB's framework provides an opportunity for not only researchers to be successful in their efforts of disseminating evidence-based research to the community, but also for residents to be involved in the health of their community.

Comal/Guadalupe TAB in particular showcases how its unique dynamic brings forth critical awareness and reflection of the community to the researchers, and they are more than just an advisory board. They are key partners with a rich support network, skills, resources, with a sense of community, understanding of history, articulation of values and access to power.<sup>2</sup>

## References

1. Disseminating the Research Findings. World Health Organization website [http://www.who.int/tdr/publications/year/2014/participant-workbook5\\_030414.pdf](http://www.who.int/tdr/publications/year/2014/participant-workbook5_030414.pdf). Accessed September 20, 2018.
2. Goodman, R.M., and others. "Identifying and Defining the Dimensions of Community Capacity to Provide a Basis for Measurement." *Health Education and Behavior*, 1999, 25(3), 258-278.