



The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Tyler

Mental Health Workforce Development in Rural Northeast Texas

*Presented to the
House Select Committee on Mental Health*

Workforce Challenges

- **Primary Care Workforce:** In some areas, the ratio of patients to primary care providers is five times worse than the statewide average and *eight times worse than the national benchmark.*
- **Behavioral Health Workforce:** The ratio of patients to mental health providers in some communities is nearly 25,000 to 1, *seven times worse than the state average.*
- **Psychiatrists:** Over 60% of counties in Northeast Texas do not have a general psychiatrist.



GME & Workforce Development

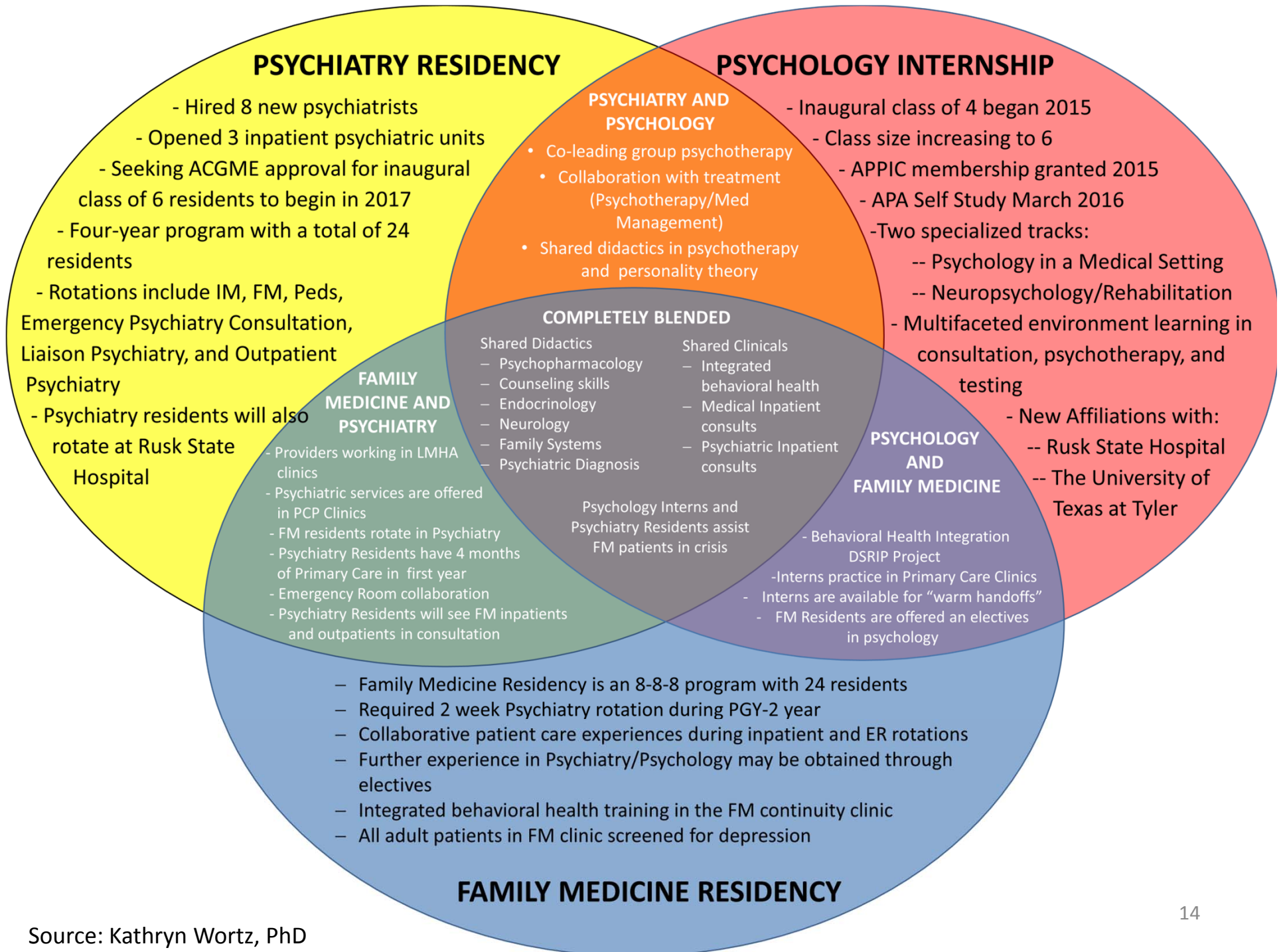
- Graduate Medical Education Programs in family medicine, internal medicine, and occupational medicine.
- We are making a difference in the most underserved areas of our State: *more than 75% of the primary care residents we train stay in Texas, and over half of those stay in rural Texas.*
- We are expanding our GME programs to address workforce shortages in rural primary care and mental health:
 - Established 2013: Clinical Psychology Internship Program
 - Estimated 2017: Family Medicine Rural Training Track
 - Estimated 2017: Psychiatry Residency

The 84th Texas Legislature directed \$8 million for the biennium for UT Health to develop mental health workforce training programs for rural and underserved areas.

- Doubled the size of our clinical psychology internship program. Currently expanding rotations to Rusk State Hospital.
- Recruited two board certified child psychiatrists. Other faculty positions are currently being recruited.
- Deploying technology and telecommunications infrastructure to connect UT Health to Rusk State Hospital.

Collaborations & Rotations

- UT Health Northeast – Adult Inpatient (Acute, Subacute, Geriatrics), Adult Outpatient, Child/Adolescent Outpatient
- Good Shepherd Medical Center – Internal Medicine, Neurology, Addiction/Detox
- Rusk State Hospital – Adult Inpatient
- Terrell State Hospital – Adult Inpatient and Child/Adolescent
- Palestine Regional Medical Center – Adult Inpatient
- Local Mental Health Authorities – Community Psychiatry



Jeffrey Levin, MD, MSPH
Senior Vice President, Clinical & Academic Affairs
UT Health Northeast
903-877-7270
Jeffrey.Levin@uthct.edu
www.uthealth.org