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## **Memorial Family Medicine Residency Program wins TAFP behavioral health integration prize**

The Memorial Family Medicine Residency Program in Sugar Land, Texas, has won the Texas Academy of Family Physicians' Behavioral Health Integration Innovators Competition. The prize was awarded to three primary care clinics in Texas that have shown extraordinary innovation in integrating behavioral health services into their practices.

"We are honored to receive this award and applaud the TAFP for their forward-thinking recognition of the role of integrated behavioral health care," said David Bauer, MD, director of the program. "We take great joy in being able to provide such services to our patients, and to teach our residents these principles."

Integrating behavioral health services like psychiatry and addiction treatment into primary care clinics improves health outcomes for patients, yet many primary care physicians find it difficult to provide access to these services.

The clinic at the family medicine residency program uses a collaborative care model involving more than 50 primary care physicians, a full-time psychologist, and a clinical care manager to ensure patients are screened and treated for behavioral health conditions including depressive disorders, anxiety problems, and others. With more than 10 years of experience employing the integrated care model, the practice has achieved significant improvement in the health of its patient population. And since it is a residency program, they have trained hundreds of family doctors in the integrated behavioral health model.

TAFP developed the Behavioral Health Integration Innovators Competition to highlight best practices around the state for providing these services in primary care settings. The prize comes with a \$10,000 award and the opportunity to share details of the integration model with other practices in hopes that more primary care clinics will invest in providing integrated behavioral health services to their patients.

*The Texas Academy of Family Physicians is the premier membership organization dedicated to uniting the family doctors of Texas through advocacy, education and member services, and empowering them to provide a medical home for patients of all ages. It has 32 local chapters and is a chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Visit [www.tAFP.org](http://www.tAFP.org) for more information.*