

Integrated Child Psychiatry: **From Idea to Implementation**

Jill Welte, MD MSW

*Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist
Pediatric Integrated Behavioral Health*

March 12, 2020



**COASTAL
MEDICAL**

Pediatrics at Coastal Medical at a Glance

- Coastal has four pediatric and three family medicine practices
- Total pediatric population (21 and under) is about 26,000 lives
- Payer mix is about 50% commercial and 50% public insurance

A Commitment to Building Behavioral Health

- Why?

- Increasing rates of pediatric mental health issues
- PCP frustration with behavioral health access and limited outpatient resources
- Recognition that some ED visits/admissions are potentially avoidable
- Communication limited between PCPs and behavioral health teams

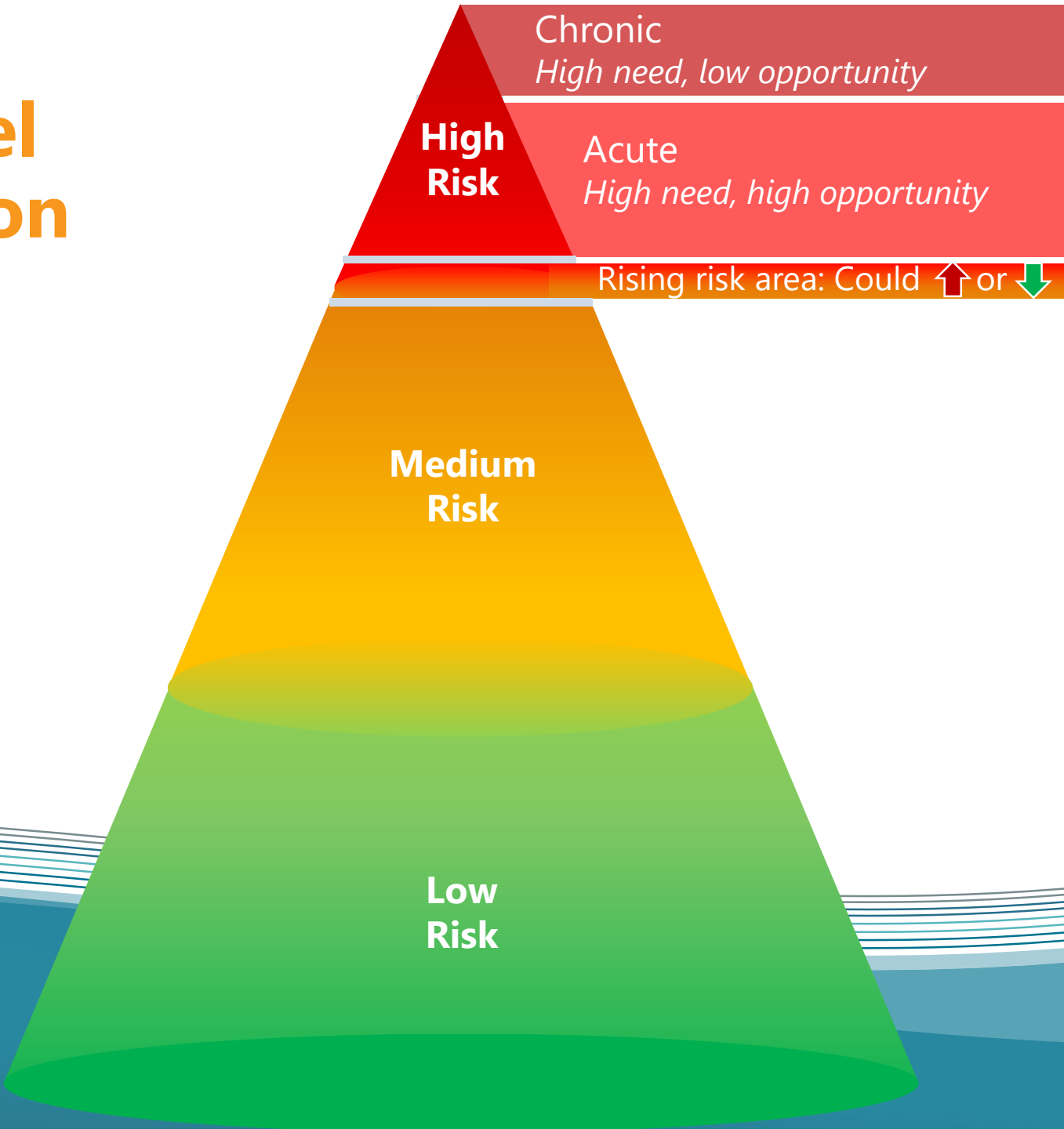
We needed a different model

- Need exceeded the capacity of traditional model
 - How can we serve the need better with a single psychiatrist
- PCPs had a baseline level of behavioral health management
- Would allow for enhanced communication between specialties

Getting Started

- Identification of high risk patients
 - Data-driven criteria included specific medications, HLOC utilization, diagnoses
 - Chart reviews by CAP- initial data run was 370+ patients
- Visits to practices
 - Needs assessment with pediatricians
 - Identification of knowledge/practice gaps and areas of interest to learn
 - Review potential high-risk pts with PCP, add PCP-identified patients

A Conceptual Model for Risk Stratification



Coastal's Starting Point

Strengths

- PCP skills
- Strong medical home model
- Population health management
- Experience
- Enthusiasm



Weaknesses

- Volume of unmet needs
- Resource limitations



Opportunities

- Financial support
- Pediatrician-identified critical clinical need



Threats

- Expectations of psychiatry role
- Sustainable financial model
- Traditional fee for service model



Our Model: Comanaged Care

- Clinical consultation
 - Comanagement: Indirect or direct assistance with clinical questions
 - Treatment consultation: full psychiatric evaluation with recommendations
 - Urgent/emergent evaluation: same/next day crisis assessment
 - Second opinion, diagnostic re-evaluation, bridging care between providers
- Education
 - Didactic seminars, clinical pearls, resources

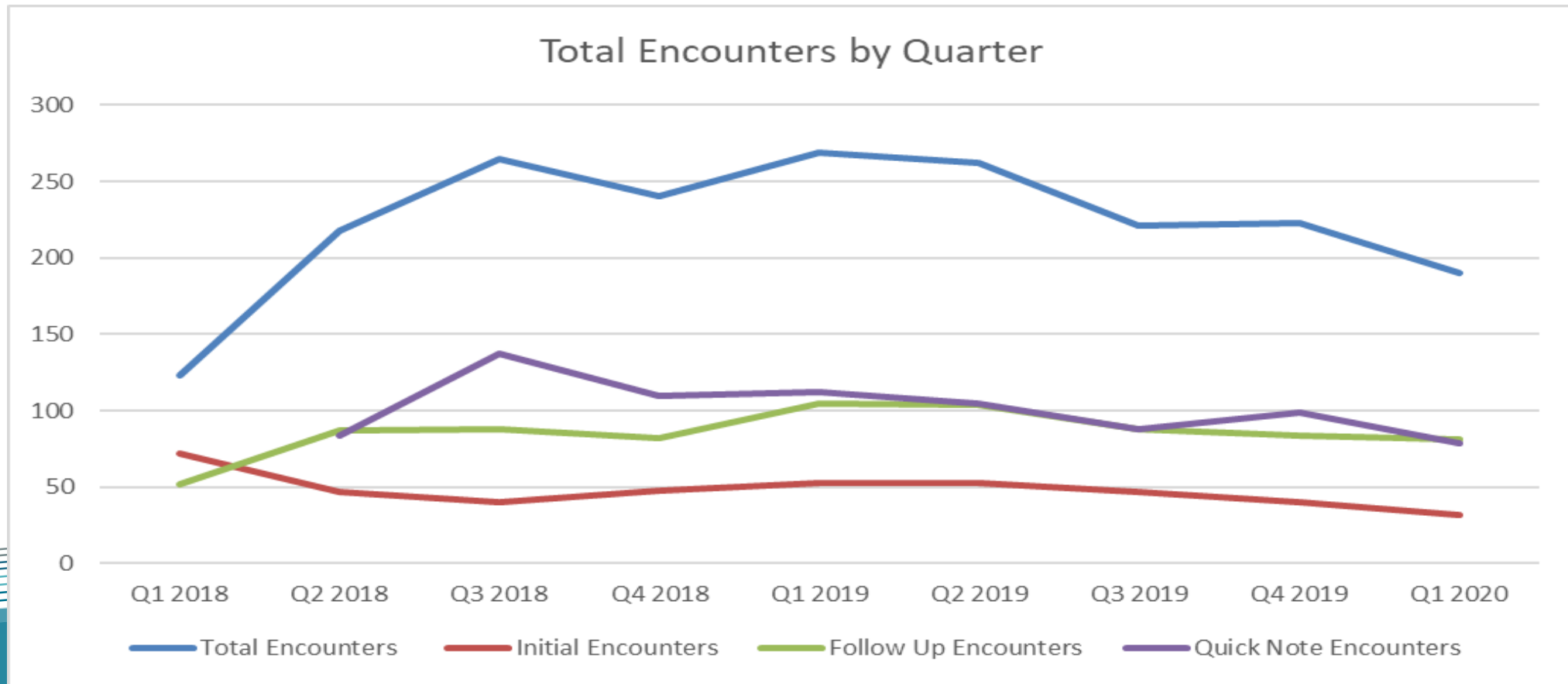
The Advantages of Comanaged Care

- Accessibility
 - On-site in offices 2-4 times per month, face to face time with all PCPs
 - Available when not in-office through Skype, chart messages, cell phone, email
- Coordination of care
 - Notes and recommendations are in primary care chart
 - Monthly multidisciplinary care conferences

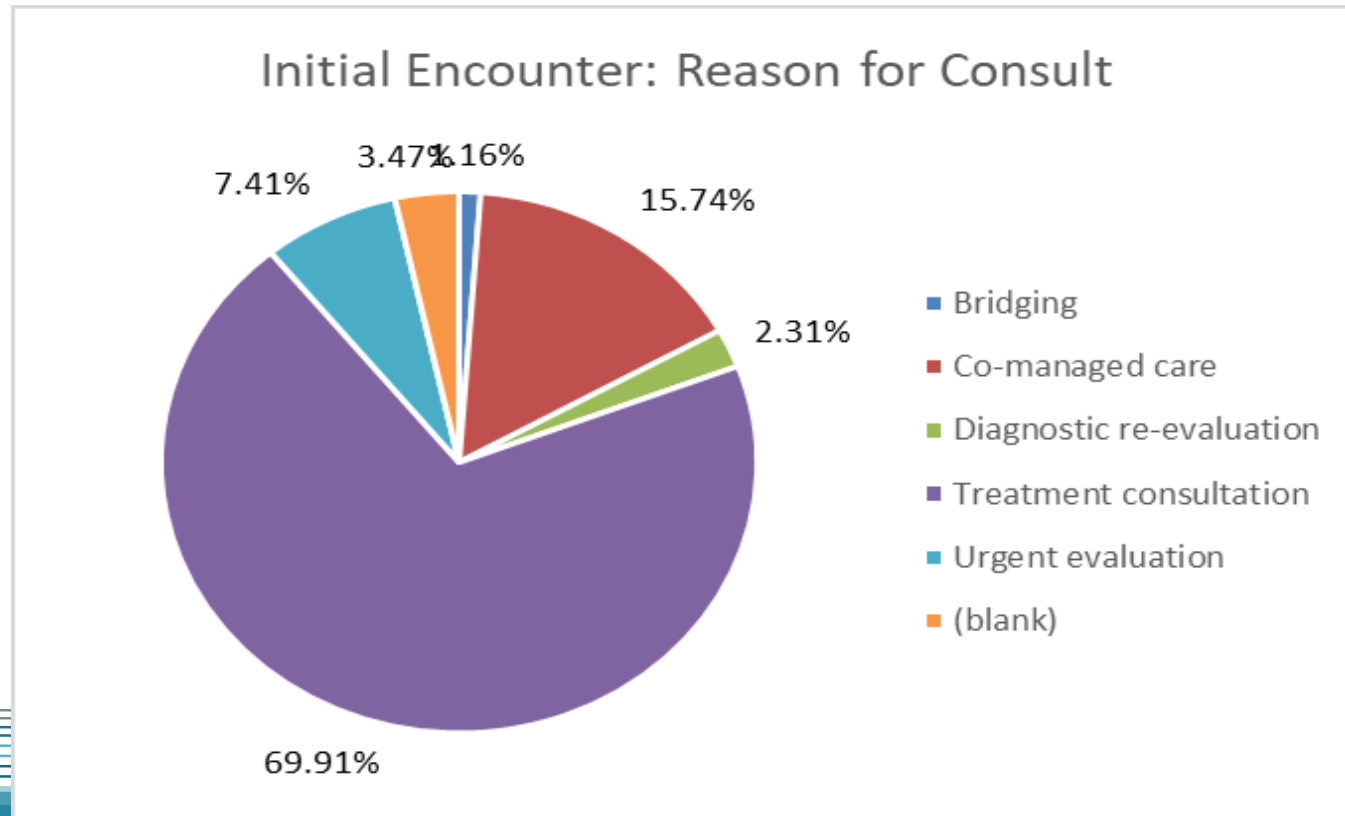
By the Numbers: 2018-2019

- Total patient encounters 796
 - 60% billable
 - 40% curbside consultation and other non-billable services
- Average 2-3 visits per patient
- No-show rate 7.7%
 - Lower than national average for outpatient psychiatry

Strong Clinician Support for Psychiatry



Support for Comanaged Care



Billing in the Comanagement Model

	Warm handoff/ Curbside consult	Joint appointment	Initial evaluation	Follow up
Length of encounter	Varies, 5-25 minutes	Varies, ~30 minutes	90 minutes	30 minutes
Billed?	No	No	Yes	Yes
Documentation	Brief telephone encounter (problem, plan)	Extended telephone encounter (problem, MSE, plan)	Full eval note	Full follow up note

Indicators of Success

- Reached program steady state within 6 months
- Initial focus on process measures
 - Patient volume, visit types, implementation of care conferences
- Patient and clinician satisfaction

Next Steps

- Calculate cost avoidance for ED visits and inpatient admissions
 - Calculate ROI after assigning overhead
- Monitor utilization of behavioral health ED visits and inpatient care as a surrogate for total cost of care
- Expand behavioral health resources
- Continued focus on integration at the practice level

Lessons learned

- Seek high opportunity rather than high risk patient population
- Target patients with unmet needs
- Ensure full chart access
- Improve communication between psychiatry and primary care
- Role clarity in comanagement is crucial

Takeaways

- PCPs are the key to success
 - Strengthen PCP skills to expand patient access to behavioral health care
 - Comanagement with close support can be professionally fulfilling and financially sustainable
- Meeting high volume needs with limited resources requires a new model

Questions?



COASTAL
MEDICAL