

**Poster Number:** W14

**Poster Title:** Fellowship Innovation for Mental Health Integration: Embedding Pediatric Mental Health Specialists into Primary Care

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**Abstract**

Pediatric primary care is increasingly responsible for managing developmental, behavioral, and mental health (DBMH) concerns amid persistent shortages of specialty mental health providers, yet scalable approaches for operationalizing integration remain limited. The CHOP APP MIND Fellowship was developed as a workforce-based strategy to increase pediatric mental health capacity through structured fellowship education, Pediatric Mental Health Specialist (PMHS) certification, and intentional Champion role integration. Implemented within a large academic pediatric primary care network, Cohort 1 included 11 nurse practitioners; 100% completed fellowship training and 91% attained PMHS certification. Following certification, clinicians integrated advanced PMHS expertise into structured Champion roles within primary care. A retrospective descriptive evaluation of completed visit utilization across FY24–FY26 demonstrated substantial and sustained growth, rising from 257 visits in FY24 to 652 in FY25 and a projected 1,091 in FY26 based on run-rate–adjusted estimates. Growth was driven primarily by Behavioral Health services delivered by seven Mental Health Champions, with diversification across Autism and Integrative Health services. Analyses reflect completed visits only. This model represents a workforce-based integration strategy that equips primary care nurse practitioners to increase developmental, behavioral, and mental health capacity within the medical home—without expanding scope of practice or replacing specialty mental health services.

**Keywords:** Pediatric Mental Health; Primary Care; Workforce Development; Integrated Care; Pediatric Mental Health Specialist

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