

# Lori Rice-Spearman - TTUHSC

What opportunities does TTUHSC have to transform mental health care?

00:06

As the largest academic health care center in the 108 counties we serve, we have an opportunity to change the way that we deliver health care. So right now, one of the things that the meadows report has shared with us is that we continue to serve those in the mental health realm separately than we do physical conditions. And so what we would like to do is be a part of a model that is created right here in our academic health care center, where we integrate those two together, where the mind and the body are not treated separately instead, where we provide integrated health care. We think because we are an academic health care center spread out in key communities across the 108 counties we serve. And we have the educational programs to support that, that we're in a very unique position to support and develop those models.

What did the report tell us about the way mental health care is treated now?

01:11

The report also highlighted for us right now the current status while somewhat positive compared to other communities our size, we do have a lot of opportunity to look at integration across our entire system. So for example, right now, we may have one agency that handles one type of issue, whether it be crisis or ongoing case management, and then we may never have another group that handles another area. And so what we feel like we can do as the academic health care center here is be the convener, where we bring together all these fragmented pieces across this community, and help guide and direct and determine how we can find synergy together to serve the mental health needs of our populations.

How will this initiative help to educate future health care providers?

02:01

The vision of our university is to transform health care through innovation and collaboration. And we feel like mental health fits ideally into what it is that we want to accomplish as an academic health care center, how we are going to train our students to take a collaborative approach to caring for those with mental health, disease, mental health crisis, and really train across a spectrum of intervention, prevention, treatment, case management and recovery. We have all of the pieces right here in our academic health care center to develop a model as we move into the future for serving those with mental health care needs.