

# UNLV Behavioral Health Care Workforce Development Initiatives and Policy Considerations

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**UNLV** PRACTICE

# UNLV PRACTICE

## From Challenges to Solutions

- **Fragmented Nature of Mental Health Disciplines**
- **Siloed Training Models**
- **Limited Funding & Resources**
- **Connection, Integration & Cohesion**
- **Collaborative & Intentionally Interdisciplinary**
- **Innovating & Advocating for Sustainability**

# UNLV PRACTICE history

2012

Doors Open  
Counseling, Clinical  
Psychology & School  
Psychology

*Satellite Location in Medical  
District, Coordinated Specialty  
Care Programs ESMI*

2023  
Development  
Grant &  
Strategic  
Planning



*In-Person & Telehealth Therapy  
Psychological Assessment  
5000 people served  
250 + graduates*

2021-2022

Expanded Reach &  
Faculty Survey

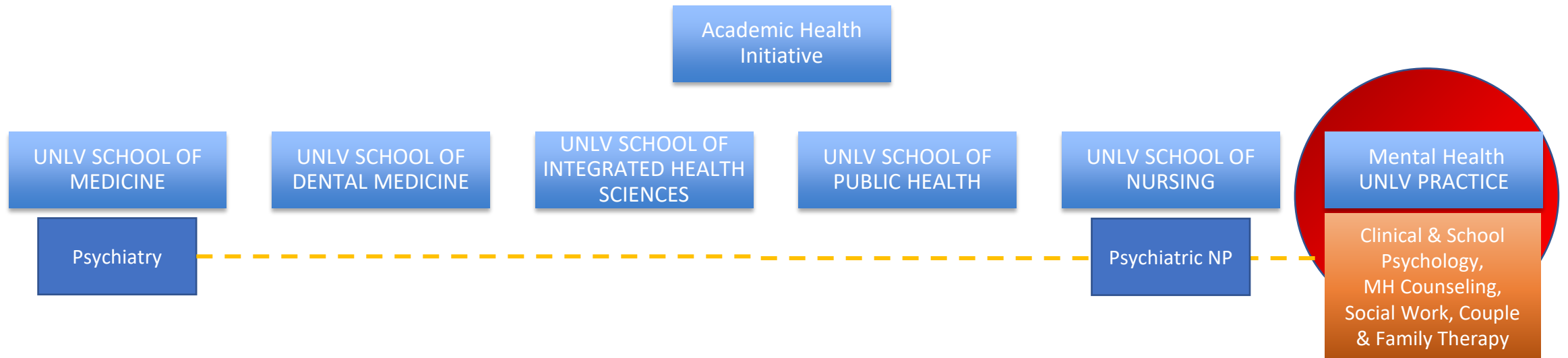
2024-2028

**A Community Mental  
Health Training Clinic**

**Uniquely Interdisciplinary  
Mental Health Institute**

# Project Mission – Expand UNLV PRACTICE

To strategically unite UNLV’s mental and behavioral training programs for the greatest impact in addressing Nevada’s mental health crisis, providing accessible effective, and research informed community mental and behavioral health care today while preparing the next-generation workforce.



# Goals

- 1. Center of Excellence: Establish UNLV PRACTICE as a center of excellence through optimal & comprehensive internal coordination, collaboration & partnership
- 2. Community Care Excellence: Deliver unmatched community care outcomes through a fully integrated mental and behavioral health model.

# Training students to think in terms of value-based care utilizing Evidence-Based Practices & Routine Outcome Monitoring

## **UNLV PRACTICE** (2018-present)

- Adult Individual Therapy
  - 65% improvement rate
- Youth Individual therapy
  - 70% improvement rate

## **Routine Care Settings**

- 20.9% improvement rate

# Goals

- 3. Research Growth: Champion a robust research agenda and infrastructure prioritizing the science of best-practice clinical training and interdisciplinary projects that promise to address pressing community needs.
  - ESMI Grants program
  
- 4. Trainee Workforce Expansion: Grow the PRACTICE's clinical training capacity by 50% with a broad spectrum of applied training opportunities across all UNLV mental health disciplines.
  - New programs (BA Child Behavioral Health and PsyD w/ neurodevelopment/opioid abatement foci; Spanish certificate optional)

# Goals continued

- 5. Policy Advocacy & Government Relations: Position UNLV PRACTICE as a principal advocate for mental health policy and resource for local and state governments.
- 6. Financial Sustainability: Diversify and solidify revenue streams, moving beyond traditional models to ensure UNLV PRACTICE's mission and service continuity.



# Policy Considerations – Center Mental Health

- Sustainable funding that aligns with mental health training models – work with insurances
  - Commercial + Medicaid for services provided by properly supervised trainees (SB267, 2023)
  - Reimbursement for post-degree trainees equitably (i.e., direct billing for Psychological Assistants)
  - Reimburse services provided by university-based training clinics (across mental health disciplines)
  - Expand any willing provider to mental health clinical faculty (not exclusive to medical schools; SB146, 2023)
- Appropriations to support & expand mental health training (as done for Nursing in 2023)
  - Training programs (particularly with child and neurodevelopmental foci)
  - Training clinics (e.g., UNLV PRACTICE)
  - Psychology residencies (aka internships) (SB300, 2023)

# Questions?

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