

The **Primary Promise** Campaign

Building the Nation's Model Health System for Children

Pediatric Behavioral Health Services

PROJECT OBJECTIVE: Address emerging health needs

What if... you could ensure young people suffering from depression and other mental health conditions could get the support they need to lead happy, healthy lives?

THE SITUATION

The Intermountain West is experiencing a pediatric mental health crisis. More Utah teens die from suicide than from cancer, heart disease, birth defects, AIDS, stroke, pneumonia, influenza, and chronic lung disease *combined*. Suicide is now the leading cause of death among Utah youth ages 12 to 17.

Utah teens exceed the national average in rates of depression and suicidal thoughts. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently confirmed that the state's youth suicide rate had more than doubled, growing four times faster than the national average. Over the last eight years, the number of children treated in Primary Children's Hospital's Emergency Department for mental health crises has increased 300%.

THE CRITICAL NEED

Consider that:

- One in six children ages 6 through 17 has at least one treatable mental health disorder.
- Mental or addictive disorders affect as many as 90,000 Utah youth ages 9 to 17.
- As many as 40% of youth suffering from depression do not receive treatment.

Throughout the U.S., behavioral and mental health services are highly decentralized and poorly coordinated. As a result, it's challenging for patients and families to navigate. Additionally, the need to travel long distances for care prevents many families from pursuing treatment. Despite the growing crisis, Intermountain Healthcare currently has no pediatric behavioral health beds in Utah County.



THE PROMISE: Happy and Healthy Adolescents

Our Behavioral Health plan is bold and offers many enhancements, including:

- Development of a new Assessment, Referral, and Consultation Service to screen, triage, and place children in the right services both virtually and in person. Services will include both crisis response and stabilization, as well as a full array of treatment options.
- Expansion of care well beyond hospital walls via a call center, TeleHealth, and in-home crisis services. The center will also connect families

to local providers and services throughout the Intermountain West.

- Building a pediatric behavioral health unit located at the new, second Primary Children's Hospital planned for Lehi, Utah. Offering both inpatient and outpatient services, the new hospital will include a 12-bed behavioral health unit with private outdoor space conducive to healing and spiritual health. The Lehi location was selected to ensure the shortest drive time possible for this rapidly growing community.

HELP US KEEP THE PROMISE

The Primary Promise Campaign seeks philanthropic support to expand pediatric behavioral health services throughout the Intermountain West. The enhancements made possible by this campaign will ensure that young patients facing depression and other mental health challenges can access quality, lifesaving services.

Our region's pediatric mental health crisis is daunting, but we know that no other health investment could have a greater impact on our region and its citizens. Through philanthropic support, we will achieve our vision of a healthier, happier generation of children.

