



2022 IMPACT REPORT

Kids' Minds Matter was founded in 2016 to address the need for pediatric mental health services in our region. Thanks to your generosity, advocacy and support, we made significant progress in the **2021-2022** fiscal year.



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IMPROVING ACCESS TO CARE

- **Partnered with Family Health Centers** to embed mental health provider in Lehigh Acres
- **Added a new behavioral health clinic** at the Bonita Health Center
- **Looking ahead:** expanding services in Cape Coral

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BUILDING CAPACITY IN THE REGION

- **1,546% increase** in pediatric behavioral health visits over the last 6 years. 18% increase from 2021 to 2022.
- **500% increase in providers since 2016.** This includes an inpatient mental health navigator that connects with children who have multiple emergency room visits under the Baker Act to work through the crisis and address barriers to care.
- **15 certified trainers through the Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Training** by Cornell University. Lee Health plans to certify charge nurses, social workers, public safety officers and other key stakeholders in this three-hour workshop.
- **Looking ahead:** Lee Health is in preliminary discussions to develop a Post-Doctoral Fellowship program to assist in recruitment of pediatric psychologists and is managing ongoing recruitment of psychologists, licensed clinical social workers and licensed mental health counselors.

NAVIGATING MENTAL HEALTH

172 FAMILIES SERVED THROUGH THE MENTAL HEALTH NAVIGATOR PROGRAM SINCE 2020.

SUCCESSES: an average of 2 grade level increases and 50% increase in attendance for the identified child through the program.

CHALLENGES: our families who are already at risk due to mental health challenges are now being impacted by inflation and the housing crisis in SWFL.



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STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP

- **63 organizations** trained in Mental Health First Aid (Youth & Adult)
- **32 caregivers** trained through programs like Dignified Discipline, Parenting the Exceptional Child and Exceptional Student Education over 60 sessions
- **6 students helped** through the newly established **Youth Initiative group** over 40 sessions
- **42 agencies** worked together to develop the Lee County Ad Hoc Behavioral Health/ Substance Use Disorder Steering Committee to develop a coordinated system of care for behavioral health.
- **\$951,000 raised** through the annual Kids' Minds Matter Gala on March 9, 2022. Damini Parkhi became the first recipient of the Courtnage Courage in Our Community award.
- Held a **Mental Health Town Hall** on May 16, 2022, with media that was livestreamed for the community to watch. Lee Health leaders discussed the challenges in our region, shared the progress that's been made, plans for the future and how we need our community to join us in advancing change in our region.
- Prior to needing to postpone the **Normal is Overrated** event due to Hurricane Ian, the event was sold out and featured three local seniors sharing their mental health journeys as well as local providers for a panel discussion. The event was rescheduled for February 2023.
- Kids' Minds Matter sponsored the annual **Regional Mental Health Fair** on May 19 which brought together more than 40 community agencies to network and discuss services to find ways to collaborate.



OUR CHILDREN ARE IN CRISIS

**235% RISE
IN BAKER ACTS**
from 2020 to 2021

This increased an additional 10% from 2021 to 2022.

Florida's Baker Act law is a means of providing individuals with emergency services and temporary detention for up to 72 hours for mental health. Up until now, the policy was the same for adults as it was for children. **Lee Health is working to change that.**

MEETING THE NEED

Since 2020, Southwest Florida has seen tremendous growth. But prior to the pandemic, we were seeing an increased need for mental health services in our region. Our children were in crisis, and before we could address the current need, new families began moving into our market. The need has grown.

Additional providers and resources have reduced the wait time for help, but pediatric behavioral health appointment wait times still exist.

6 MONTH WAIT for neuro-developmental conditions and autism spectrum

2 YEARS for a psychology appointment

6-8 WEEKS for psychiatry and **3 WEEKS** for an urgent psychiatry appointment for youth



BECOME AN ADVOCATE

- **DONATE** what you can
- **PURCHASE** a Kids' Minds Matter t-shirt
- **HOST** or attend a community education course
- **SUBSCRIBE** to our eNewsletter
- **SHARE** mental health resources
- **BECOME** a corporate partner
- **CONTACT** your local legislators

