

ABSTRACT

Due to provider shortages and rising pediatric mental health diagnoses, children and families of historically underserved communities must mitigate various barriers when seeking mental health care. The mental health crisis disproportionately affects this population and perpetuates cultural stigma, lack of access to care, and provider bias. AltaMed, a general pediatric clinic affiliated with CHLA, primarily serves patients of color. While pediatric residents at these sites depend on case managers to coordinate mental health care services for their patients, there is currently a shortage of staff providing this support. In response, general pediatricians are required to address patient mental health needs. A needs assessment revealed that most pediatric residents at AltaMed are not comfortable managing patients experiencing moderate symptoms of anxiety and depression. A pediatric mental health continuing education curriculum on pediatric mental health topics was therefore presented along with a social determinant of health-related resource guide via interdisciplinary collaboration.