

# No Wrong Door

## *Integrated Mental and General Healthcare*

Mental Health America  
Opening Plenary  
November 14, 2007



*The statistics on sanity are that one out of every four Americans is suffering from some form of mental illness. Think of your three best friends. If they're okay, then it's you. ~Rita Mae Brown*

## ***Wait a minute: Are we sure we know what we mean by “integration” between mental health and medical health?***

- We don't even speak the same language
- We don't view humans the same way
- We need to agree on best practices and clinical guidelines
- What about outcomes?
- Should we assume that “integration” is the panacea?
- What does “integration” mean to a consumer versus a medical/behavioral health provider?

We have been talking about integration  
for at least 15 years:

**FACT:** Most behavioral health care is still  
happening in PCP offices

## The Perspective From a Public Funded, For Profit, MBHO

**Here are some of the barriers to integration:**

- Lack of strong public policy from the Federal Government
  - Government versus private sector
  - Not a profit, non-profit issue – should it be left up to the States?
- Technology
  - Too much paper due to lack of electronic health record
- Education of the Health Care System
  - Better training of both Behavioral Health and Medical
  - On-line education

## The Perspective From a Public Funded, For Profit, MBHO (continued)

- Stigma
  - Need more than movie stars
  - Integrated networks
  
- Administrative Burden
  
- Changing BH Practitioners attitudes

## Opportunities

- Must partnership with MBHO's as well as MCO's
- To influence policy we need more than parity
- Well organized behavioral health stakeholders need to interface with  
medical stakeholders
- We must develop a common language
- There should be financial incentives for integration and quality outcomes