Primary Care-Mental Health Integration: Where are we now and where might we be headed?

Andrew S. Pomerantz, MD
National Mental Health Director, Integrated Care
Office of Mental Health Services
VACO

Associate Professor of Psychiatry
Dartmouth Medical School
Early conceptualization

“On Melancholia”
Options
Integrated Care is a state of mind

- Which may mean changing yours.
- Or providing subspecialty care
- We need everyone
One way to think about it

- Like the rest of healthcare, Mental Health can be divided into PRIMARY, SECONDARY and TERTIARY care.
- Primary MH care can be delivered in the same setting as general Primary Care by expert clinicians – horizontal and vertical integration.
- Secondary/tertiary MH care are more specialized and require multiple disciplines.
One size does not fit all

Organizational Ethics: “…The intentional use of values to guide the decisions of a system.”

References
