THE NEW INTEGRATED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TOOL KIT HAS ARRIVED!

The updated “Partners in Health: Mental Health, Primary Care and Substance Use Interagency Collaboration Tool Kit” is here! The Kit, an update of the popular 2009 edition, was developed by the Integrated Behavioral Health Project (IBHP) and sponsored by the California Mental Health Services Authority’s (CalMHSA)* Statewide Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Initiative.

The 354 page Kit may seem a bit daunting at first, but the Table of Contents is interactive – and users can link directly to the sections they're interested in with just a click. Designed to help primary care clinics and behavioral health agencies forge collaborative relationships, the Tool Kit provides job descriptions; sample agreements and contracts; screening instruments and evaluation measures; operational forms; strategies and prototypes for integrating mental and physical services; checklists of tasks; the client perspective; practical advice; issues to consider when brokering agreements; information-sharing information and forms; evaluation approaches; integration models; mutual role descriptions and much more. Though the focus is on California counties, much of the Tool Kit information can be generalized to other locales.

The Kit can be accessed on the home page of IBHP’s website: www.ibhp.org, which also chockablock with information about behavioral health integration. Questions or comments about the Kit should be directed to Barbara Demming Lurie, barb@ibhp.org.

*The California Mental Health Authority (CalMHSA) is an organization of county governments working to improve mental health outcomes for individuals, families and communities. Prevention and Early Intervention programs implemented by CalMHSA are funded by counties through the voter-approved Mental Health Services Act (MHSA, Proposition 63). Prop. 63 provides the funding and framework needed to expand mental health services to previously underserved populations and all of California’s diverse communities.