



National Behavioral Health Provider Shortage Impacts Everyone

By Mari Kriescher, Director, [Oneida Behavioral Health](#)

Prior to, and especially since the outset of the Covid 19 epidemic, the need for mental health providers across the country has skyrocketed. SAMHSA, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, found that in 2020 there were 53 million adults with mental health or substance use disorders, yet only 1.2 million behavioral health providers. Shortages of psychiatrists and addiction counselors in particular are projected to extend to at least 2030 according to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HSRA).

There's no doubt that the shortage of mental health providers has impacted Oneida Behavioral Health, but we're continuing to identify new ways to provide the care that people need while we actively recruit providers.

In times of crisis, we encourage you to text or call 988 ([988 Suicide & Crisis Line](#)); text [HOPELINE™](#) at 741741; or call the [Trevor Project \(LGBTQ\)](#) at 866-488-7386 or text START to 678678. Additional emergency youth resources include: the [Teen Line](#) at 800-852-8336 or by text at 839863 or [Your Life, Your Voice](#) (youth) at 800-448-3000 or text VOICE to 20121. And for non-emergency situations, Oneida Behavioral Health Triage Counseling is just a phone call away at (920) 490-3860.

The biggest challenge with a provider shortage is often ongoing mental health services. While we have a great roster of providers, the need is greater than the number of providers we have. We know that, in some cases, new patients may have a several month wait to see someone on an ongoing basis. During that gap we, along with our other community partners, offer a range of wellness support options that can help bridge the time between crisis care, which is always available, and longer-term care.

One option that's available is our Wellness Support Group which meets Monday through Friday from 1:00 until 2:30 p.m. and covers topics including coping, community, support, outreach, relationships and emotions. The weekday group is open to all Tribal-eligible adults, 18 and older, and no referral is needed. Learn more by calling (920) 490-3790. We want you to know that Oneida Behavioral Health leaders are putting in a considerable amount of time and energy to address the provider shortage here, while continuing to provide care and support for those in need. We are actively recruiting mental health providers and we have an impressive portfolio of benefits designed to both attract and retain highly skilled, compassionate personnel.

The bottom line is that we aren't letting the provider shortage stand in the way of providing help. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need us. We will be there. Call us at (920) 490-3790.