



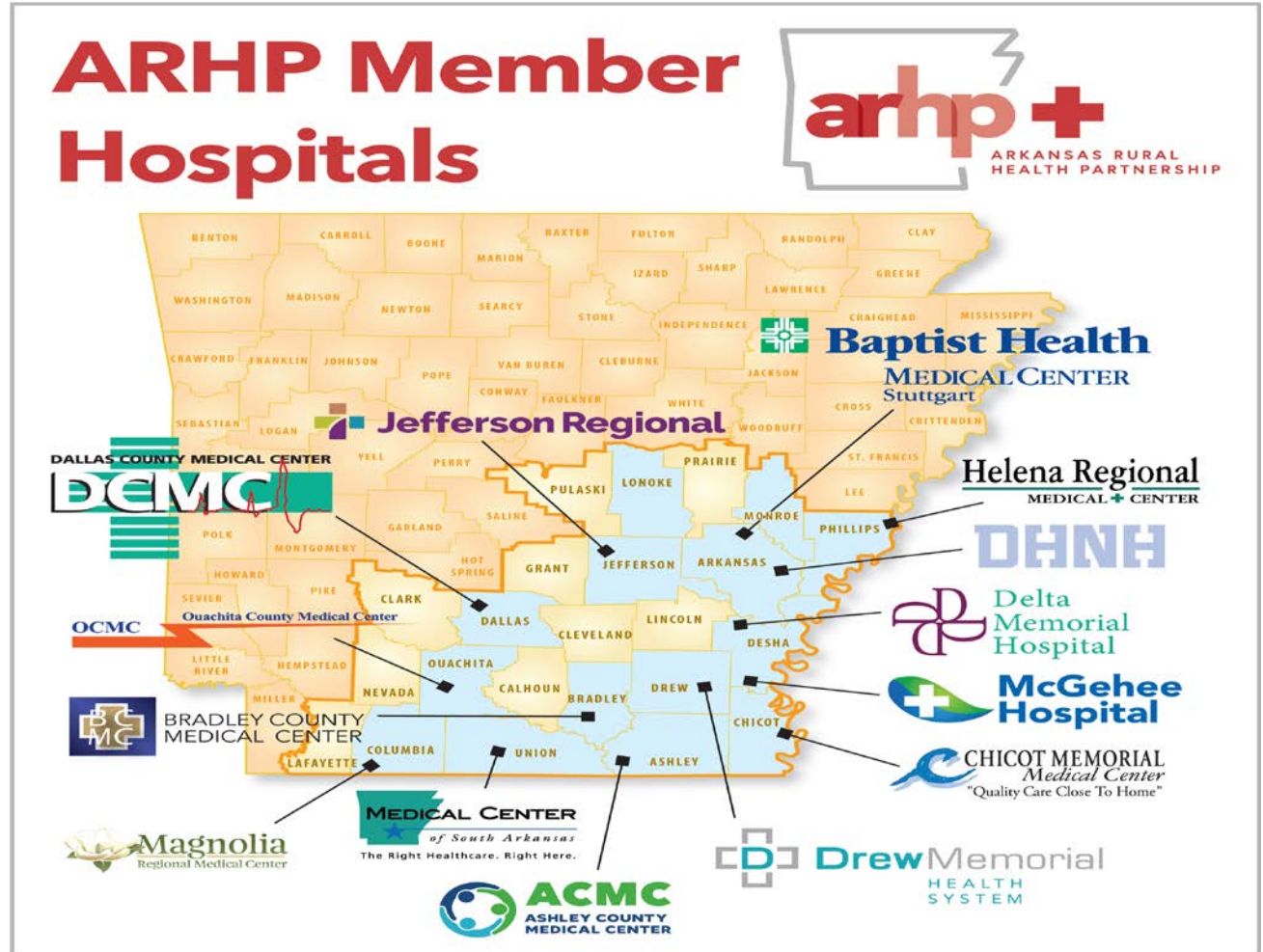
# Rural Health Opioid Program - ARHP

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## About ARHP

- Non-profit, horizontal hospital organization comprised of fourteen independently owned south Arkansas rural hospitals.
- ARHP board is governed by a board of directors comprised of the CEO of each member hospital.
- ARHP is formally organized with by-laws and meets on a monthly basis.
- **ARHP collectively is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest healthcare provider in the state or Arkansas (patient volume)**



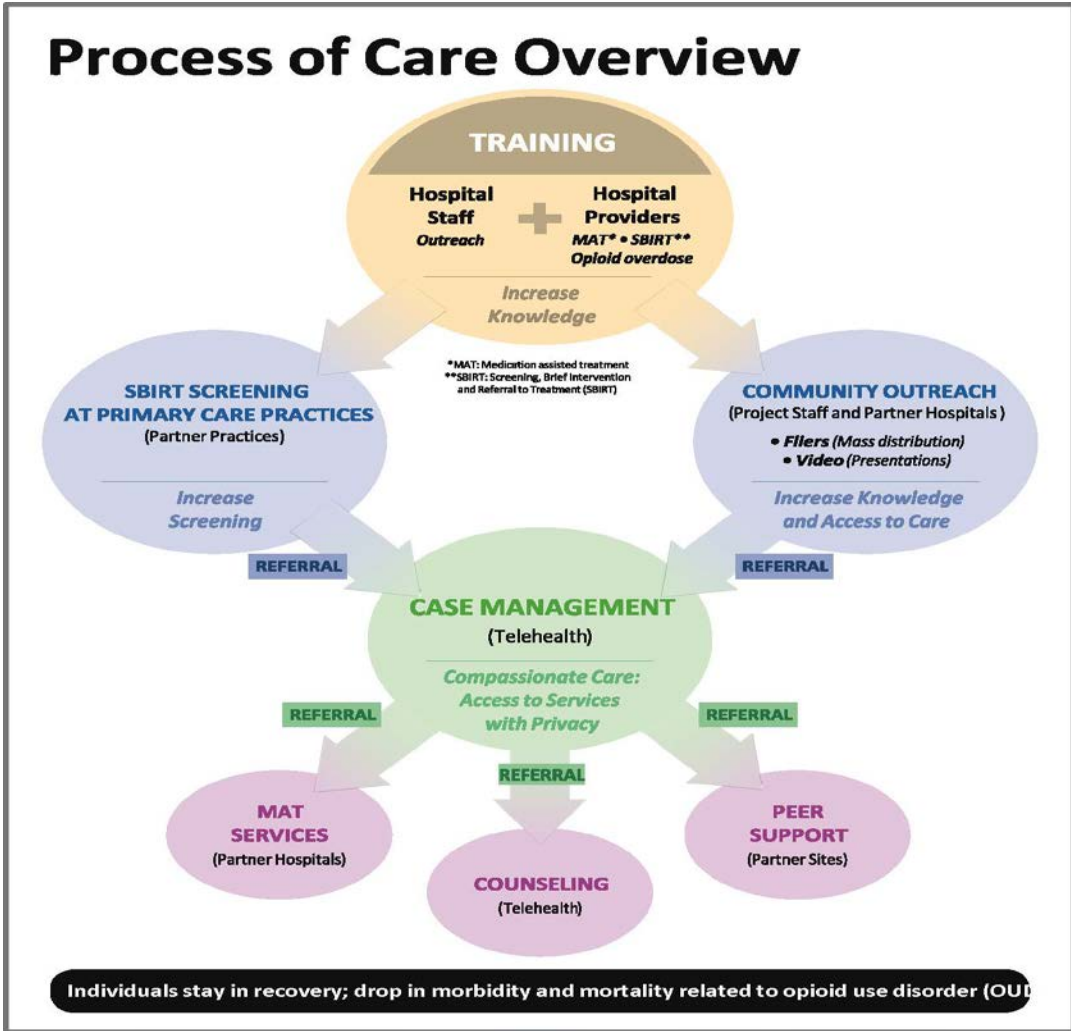


# Evidence-Based Practices

- **Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)** is the use of medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies for the treatment of substance use disorders.
- **Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)** is used to identify, reduce, and prevent problematic use, abuse, and dependence on alcohol and illicit drugs. The SBIRT model was incited by an Institute of Medicine recommendation that called for community-based screening for health-risk behaviors, including substance use. – SAMHSA



## Arkansas Rural Health Opioid Program





## Response Efforts

- 18 clinics providing opioid telehealth counseling services
- 3 clinics have MAT physicians
- 2 clinics with nurse practitioners interested in MAT waiver – physician champion
- Service currently covers 10 counties
- As of 12/2019, ARHP has ten patients utilizing services – services went "live" 10/2019.



# Successes

- Clinics eager to provide counseling services
- Formed Behavioral Health Task Force
  - Meets bi-monthly
  - Gives shared ownership and vision of both Opioid and Mental Health Outreach Projects
  - Provides unique community perspective
  - Delivers community outreach (i.e. awareness campaigns, community video, etc.)
- Patient stated, “Where has this program been for the last ten years of my life? Other programs offered medication with no counseling or counseling with no medication. This is the first program that I have both and I don’t feel judged.”



# Challenges/Lessons Learned

- Certified mental health professionals are scarce
  - Remedied by working with our Outreach provider
- Stigma with MAT
  - In process of continually education providers
- Gaps in assistance for patients
  - Constantly looking at ways to assist such as Crisis Stabilization Unit, Mobile Crisis Team, etc.



# Thank You!

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