

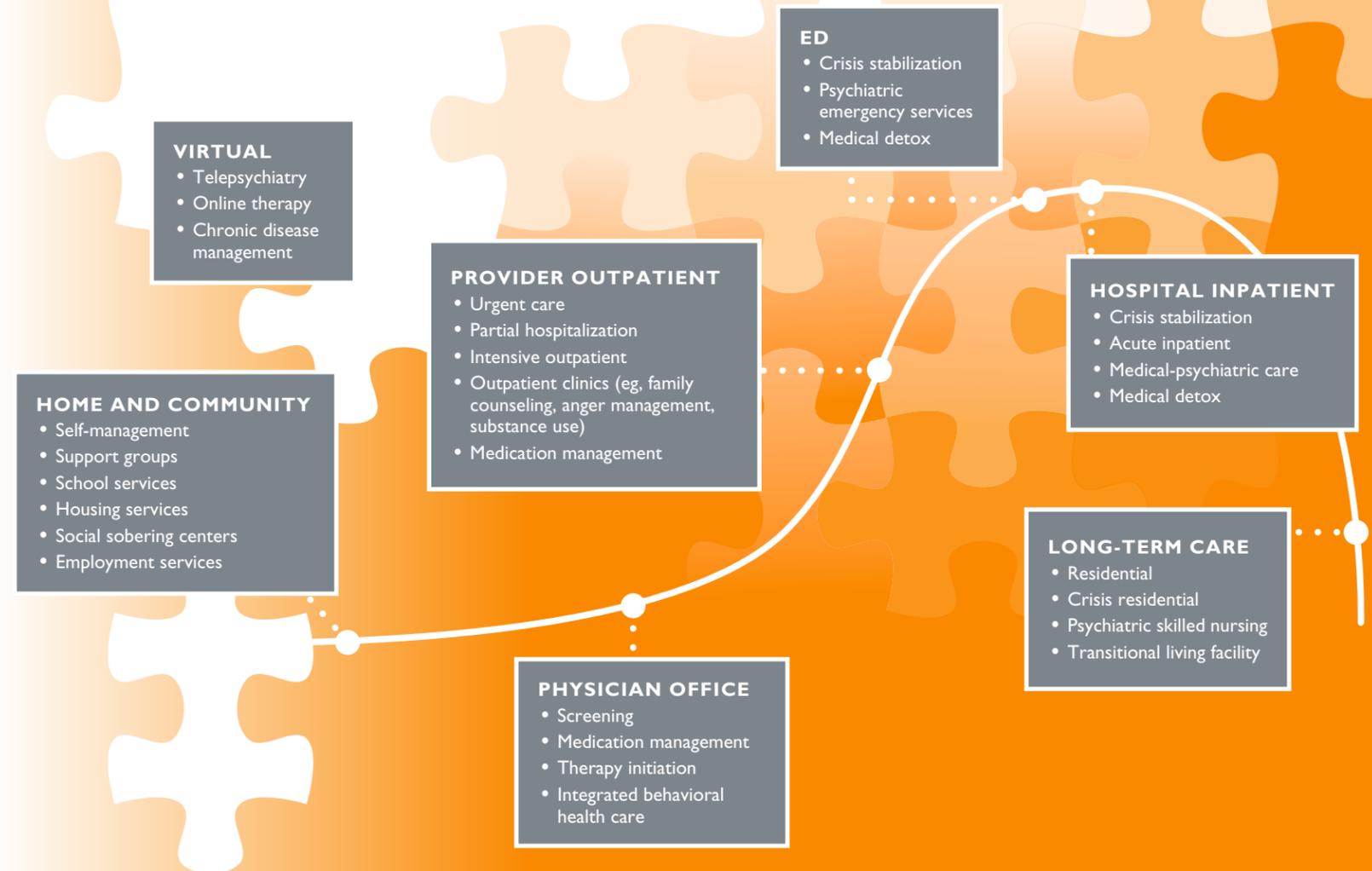
SOLVE THE **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH** PUZZLE

Too often, behavioral health conditions go undiagnosed and untreated. When individuals do first seek treatment, they may be in crisis. What's their likely point of entry at that stage? The ED.

Given the sharp rise in behavioral health volumes anticipated over the next few years, optimally managing the influx of behavioral health patients into the ED should be, if it isn't already, a high priority. There is abundant need, however, to also organize and coordinate services for individuals at earlier stages of the full care continuum—what Sg2 has long referred to as the System of CARE. Depending on your market, you may not be the key provider of care for these patients. But your participation in building out essential system-wide services can pay high benefits in better outcomes and lower costs.

ED optimization is important, but it's just one piece of the care puzzle. In behavioral health, where care has often been disjointed, piecing together disparate segments of the care continuum is essential to improving care transitions for this vulnerable patient population.

Behavioral Health System of CARE



Strengthening the behavioral health System of CARE is no easy feat. Key strategies (in addition to ED optimization) can help get you started.

Build access points.

Many provider systems have adopted the concept of “no wrong door;” developing a variety of portals to ensure timely access to appropriate behavioral health care.

Evaluate virtual visits.

Providing real-time mental health care from a distance using interactive two-way audiovisual communication has the potential to extend provider reach and create cost savings.

Weigh IP options, strengthen OP offerings.

Strategy requires both tackling tough inpatient “build vs partner” questions and building out outpatient services that can help free those IP beds.

Integrate behavioral health and primary care.

Behavioral health treatment provided within primary care improves both behavioral health and general health outcomes and reduces costs.

Consider niche programs.

Organizations with specific strengths in behavioral health care may consider creating programs to meet specialized needs in the community, the region or even the state.

To learn more, read the Sg2 report [Reconsidering Behavioral Health](#) or email membercenter@sg2.com.

