



WORKFLOWS AND COMMON CHALLENGES

May 12th, 2026

Jean McClurken, LICSW – Director of Behavioral Health Dept

Elizabeth Southwick, RN – Director of Nursing

REVIEW LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Explore whole team workflows for behavioral health (BH) care.
2. Describe how to appropriately leverage therapists and community health workers within integrated workflows.
3. Utilize crisis response workflows to determine the acuity of behavioral health needs.

AGENDA – 60 MIN

15 min – Empowerment-Based Staffing Models

15 min – Communication is Constant and Fluid

15 min – Small Group Activity: Crisis Response Workflow

15 min – Open Discussion

SPEAKERS FOR THIS SESSION

Jean McClurken, LICSW

Director of Behavioral Health
Department at Fenway Health

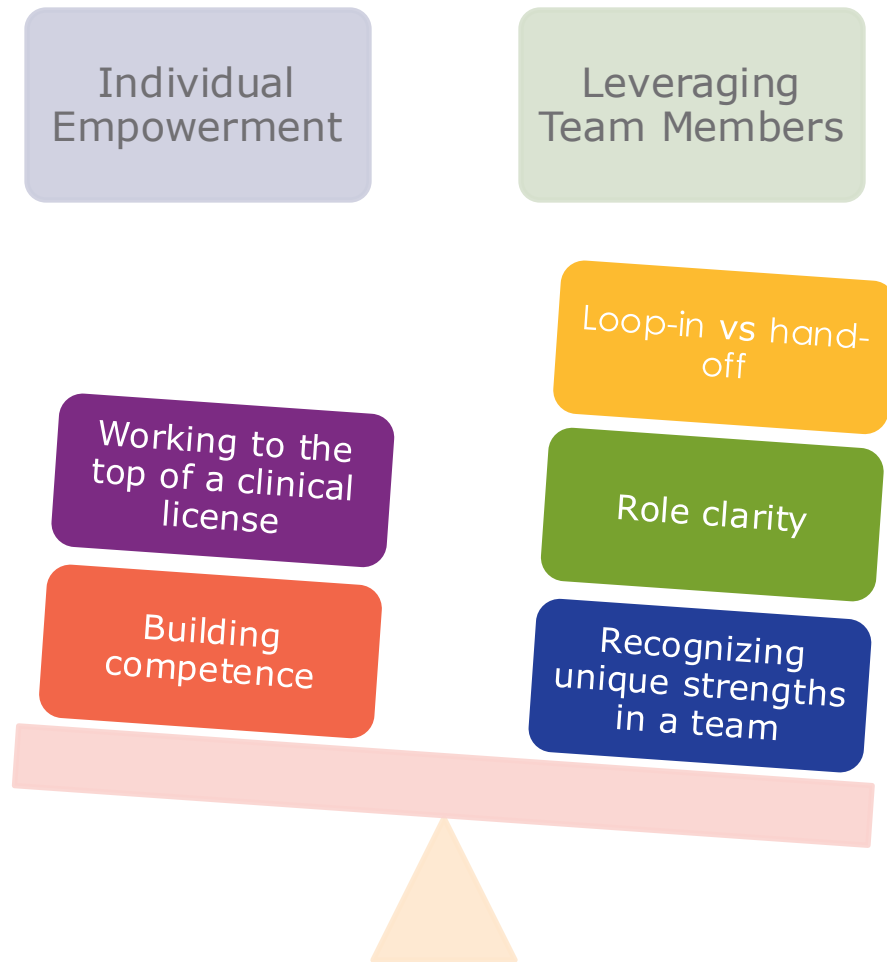
Background in BH integrated
system design from community
practice, hospital system,
utilization management, and
payer perspectives.

Elizabeth Southwick, RN

Director of Nursing at Fenway
Health

15 years of experience in
Community Health Nursing,
including 9 years in leadership
and model of care development.

EMPOWERMENT-BASED STAFFING MODELS



Common traps/challenges that Empowerment-Based Staffing in Team-Based Care (TBC) seeks to address:

- “That’s not my job.”
- “ I made the referral, now it’s out of my hands.”
- “ I don’t know how to help the patient when...”

CASE EXAMPLES OF EMPOWERMENT-BASED MODEL

Being down-staffed in one role or staff call outs

- Team Culture – being willing to go outside of your role to help a client when needed

Complicated case needing a team solution

- Flexibility - focus on overlapping collaboration and workflows vs a hand-off and rigid columns

COMMUNICATION: CONSTANT & FLUID



Challenges addressed daily:

- Ensuring team is aware of any necessary updates
- Staffing availability
- Tiered system for routine/urgent communications

CASE EXAMPLES OF COMMUNICATION OPPORTUNITIES

“Oh, I didn’t see the email.”

- Balance for standard accountability and individual preference between multiple communication pathways

“Who is covering today?”

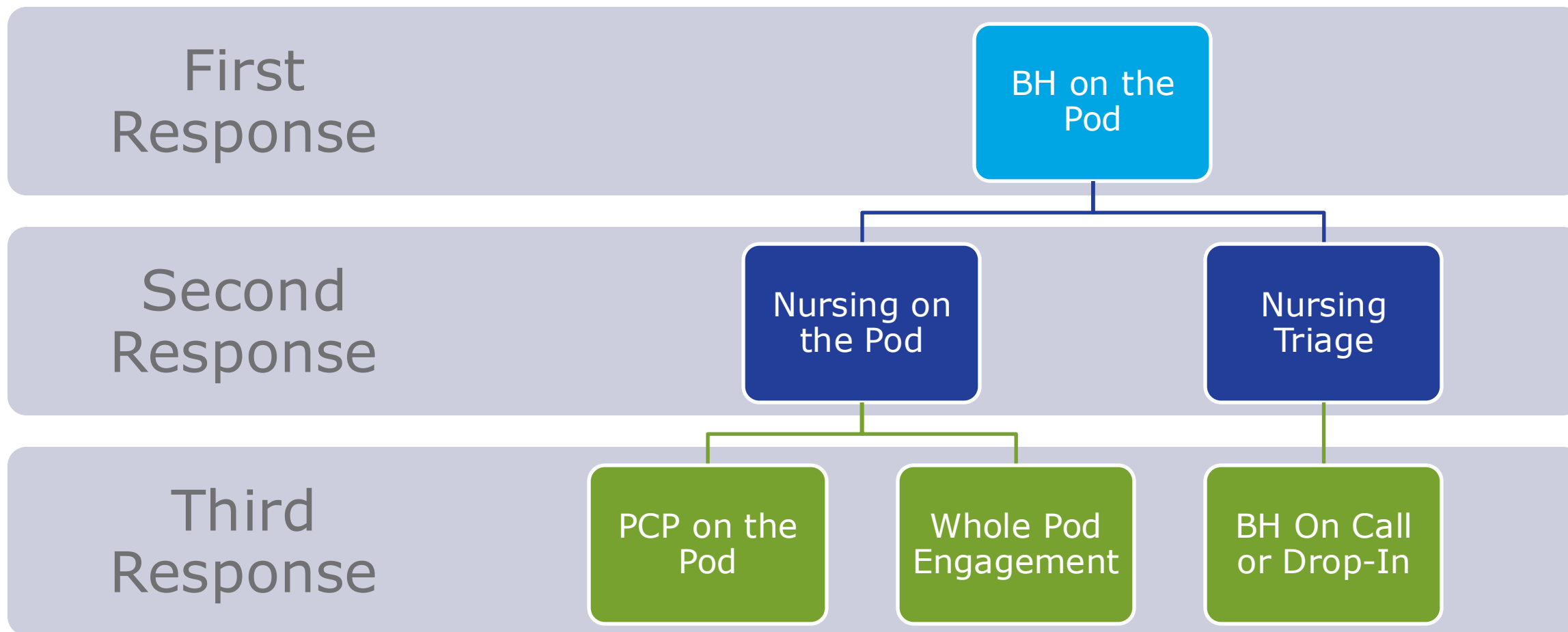
- Having communication and workflows based on **groups**, not **individuals**

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY: CRISIS RESPONSE WORKFLOW

Consider the following scenario and discuss how your clinic would address the patient needs. What strengths/challenges would you anticipate?

Scenario: A patient shows up at the front desk, tearful, for a first complete physical exam appointment. During rooming, the medical assistant notes an elevated blood pressure, high PHQ-9 score, and statements of passive suicidal ideation.

FENWAY CRISIS RESPONSE WORKFLOW: DE-ESCALATION & RE-EVALUATION



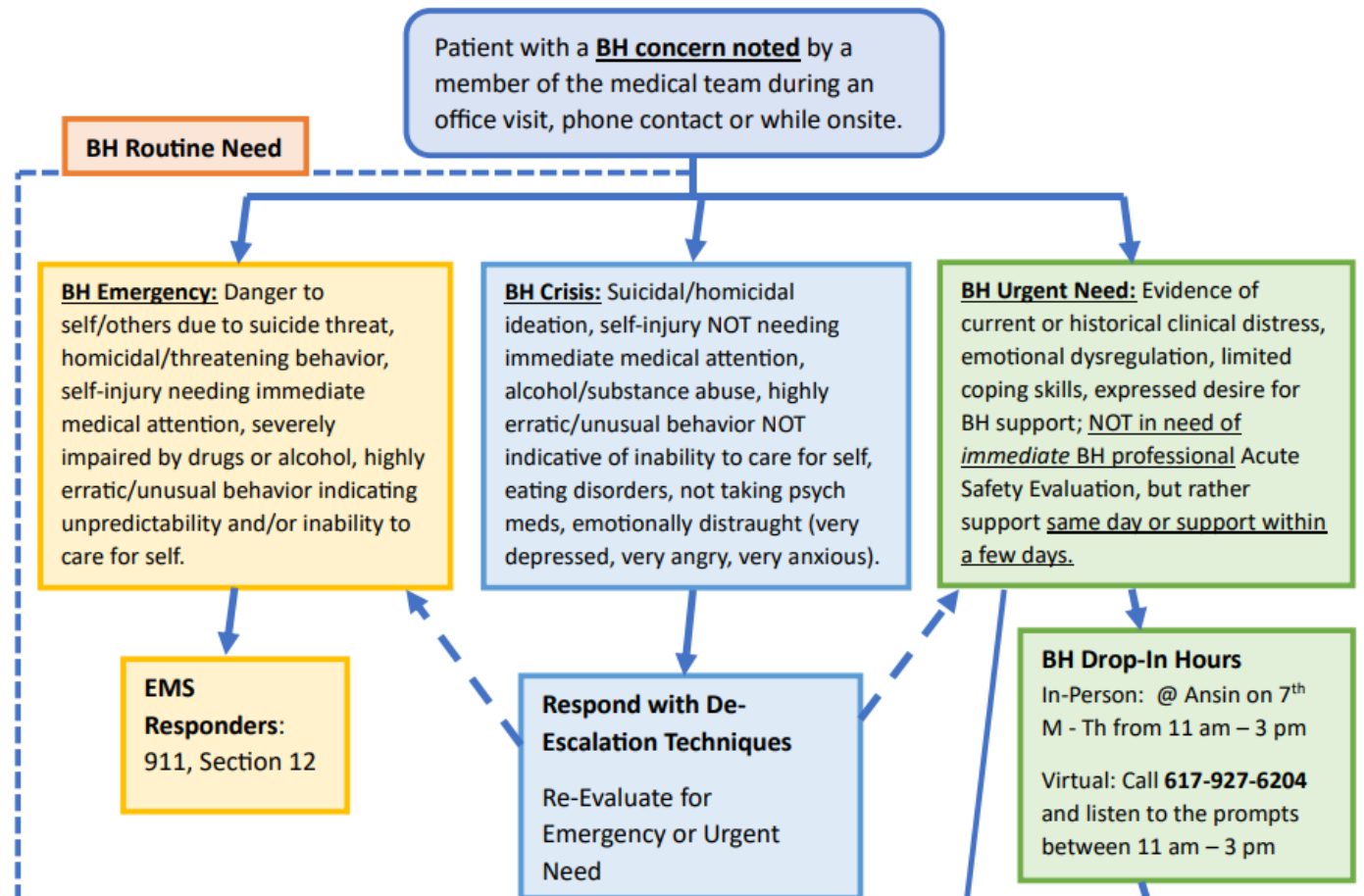
EXAMPLE DOCUMENT SHARED IN TBC

FENWAY  HEALTH

Behavioral Health Access for Primary Care Teams

UPDATED December 2025

We have tried to provide clear and uniform guidance across all roles in TBC pods for when patient behavioral health concerns are noted in real time based on if the need is assessed as **emergent, crisis, urgent, or routine.**



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OPEN DISCUSSION

Does anyone have a workflow or example of how BH is integrated in your medical teams that you can share or reflect on the challenges you are addressing?

HRSA Disclaimer

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