

# TEXAS CHILD HEALTH ACCESS THROUGH TELEMEDICINE (TCHAT)

**TCHAT** is a school-based telemedicine service that will provide **FREE** access to behavioral health services for students.

## How Does TCHAT work?

- ▶ The school counselor will identify an at-risk student in need of mental health services.
- ▶ With parent permission, the student will be referred to the TCHAT program, a school-based telemedicine service.
- ▶ An initial diagnostic evaluation will be completed by a University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) child and adolescent psychiatrist or psychologist followed by a limited number of visits with a mental health care professional.
- ▶ Once the student has utilized their allotted visits, UTMB will help facilitate ongoing care for the student with a local mental health clinician.

## About UTMB Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences:

The Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences is dedicated to excellence in clinical service, education, and research in psychiatry.

Our child and adolescent psychiatry faculty and therapists are committed to providing high quality care across our region to child and adolescent patients with mental health needs.



This program is brought to you by UTMB and Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium (TCMHCC). To learn more about TCMHCC please visit their website at <https://www.utsystem.edu/pophealth/tcmhcc>

## Advantages of TCHAT:

- ▶ **Free** – visits are offered at no cost to the school district or student
- ▶ **Immediate** – limited wait time between referral and initial evaluation of the student
- ▶ **Evidence-based treatment** – medication and/or therapy services are available
- ▶ **Convenient** – visits are conducted at the school decreasing the amount of time families are away from work and students are away from school to attend appointments
- ▶ **Secure** – health information shared over a secure telemedicine network
- ▶ **Community oriented** – UTMB will help connect students to local mental health resources

## PARENTS

Please speak to your school counselor if you are interested in having your child evaluated through the TCHAT program. If you would like specific information related to the TCHAT program please contact Ashley Colangelo, UTMB TCHAT Program Manager, at **(409) 747-8308** or [alcolang@utmb.edu](mailto:alcolang@utmb.edu).



Working together to work wonders.