POLICY | PURPOSE STATEMENT:
It is the policy of TTUHSC SON Larry Combest Community Health and Wellness Center clinics to provide for integration of behavioral health care into primary patient care. The purpose of this policy is to define the process for assuring patients receive regular behavioral health screening and professional behavioral health services when needed.

SCOPE:
This policy applies to all clinic staff and all patients of TTUHSC SON Larry Combest Community Health and Wellness Center clinics.

DEFINITIONS:
Behavioral Health Professional – Includes licensed psychiatrist, licensed health clinical psychologist, and licensed clinical social worker.
Warm hand-off – Is an introduction of the patient to a staff member they have not seen before.
FQHC – federally qualified healthcare center
Plan of Care – A plan developed by the Provider, patient and/or family members that details interventions and objectives to accomplish agreed upon goals for the patient.

PROCEDURE:
1. Patients will be screened for depression, substance abuse and alcohol use/dependence using the annual questionnaire located in the electronic medical record, in the Combest folder, titled FQHC Annual Questionnaire, which includes information contained in Attachments A – E. This screening is required annually for all clinic patients and will be completed during the Nursing patient intake documentation. Screening as part of the Nursing patient intake documentation at each visit is encouraged.
2. When a screening is positive, the RN/LVN that completed the screening is required to notify the primary care provider verbally or by printing clearly on the primary care provider’s paperwork that is placed in their chart rack.
3. During primary care provider review of the patient’s records, the primary care provider will include the screening results into their visit note.

4. When a screening is positive, the primary care provider will document a plan of care that has been discussed with and agreed on with the patient and/or their family as indicated.

5. Behavioral health professionals are integrated into the primary care setting at the Combest Lubbock locations. The primary care provider will integrate behavioral health professionals into the primary care visit as needed and identified, with agreement from the patient and/or their family. A “warm hand-off” is encouraged to promote patient comfort and decrease anxiety.

6. At the Abilene Community Health Center, if a Behavioral health professional or the RN Case Manager is available, a warm hand-off will be initiated. If not available, a patient appointment will be scheduled at the earliest convenience.

7. The primary care provider and the behavioral health professional will communicate verbally and in the electronic medical record to coordinate the plan of care. Follow up visits will be scheduled with both the primary care provider and the behavioral health professional as indicated and agreed on.

RESPONSIBILITIES | REVIEW | REVISIONS:
It is the responsibility of the Policy & Procedures Committee to review and initiate necessary revisions based on collaboration and input by Policy and Procedure committee and through Administrative management of this policy, including the review and revisions will be the responsibility of the Clinical Services Director and Nurse Manager.

RIGHT TO CHANGE POLICY:
TTUHSC SON Combest reserves the right to interpret, change, modify, amend or rescind this policy in whole or in part at any time to reflect changes in policy and/or law.

ATTACHMENTS:
Attachment A: Annual Adult Questionnaire
Attachment B: Patient Health Questionnaire 9 (PHQ-9)
Attachment C: Drug Screening Questionnaire (DAST)
Attachment D: Alcohol Screening Questionnaire (AUDIT)
Attachment E: Adolescent Health Questionnaire