



#### New Member Introduction: Jennifer Gonzalez, PhD

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF POPULATION HEALTH
MEADOWS MENTAL HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE

## Outline



Introduction



Current projects



What I can bring to the Council

#### Jenn Gonzalez, PhD

- MS in Criminal Justice
- PhD in Epidemiology
- Post-Doc in Psychiatric Epi
- Formerly tenured faculty
  - @ UTHealth
  - \$10 million in funding
- Joined The Meadows Institute in 2019



# Selected Current Projects

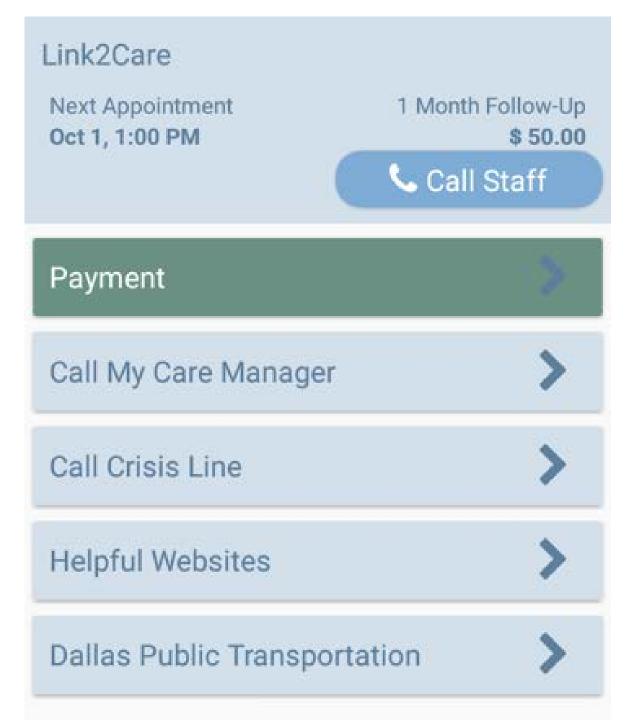
### Link2Care Study



- \$3.2 million clinical trial funded by the National Institutes of Health
  - Dallas, Texas
  - 5-year project
- Goal: To use technology to reduce barriers to obtaining care management
- To improve understanding of the causes of the revolving door of homeless incarceration



- Offers 1 click connections to:
  - Assigned care manager
  - Dallas bus routes
  - AA / NA meetings
- Prompts/suggests case manager contacts 2 times each week



#### Haven for Hope

- Systems assessment of behavioral health and social services provided to homeless veterans in San Antonio
  - Are homeless veterans being linked to appropriate services?
  - If not, what are the barriers? How can we address them?
- Project future needs
  - Is the capacity sufficient to meet the demand?

#### Projected Increase in Lives Lost to Suicide with **Increases in Unemployment Rates (Texas)** 6,000 Current **Estimated Lives Lost to Suicide** 3,800 20 Percentage Point Increase in Unemployment 5.250 5 Percentage Point Increase Unemploymen

#### Others

- Projections
- Evaluation of Dallas Deflects
- Evaluation of Dallas County Specialty Courts
- Planning for expansion of community-based care with the Department of Family and Protective Services
- Expanding collaborative care in primary care settings

# What I can bring to the Council

- Unbiased assessment on what "works" and what doesn't work so well
- Knowledge on the research on homelessness
- Identifying options for evaluating programs and policies
- Work to improve data access and integration



