Dr. David Axelson is the John W. Wolfe Chair in Pediatric Psychiatry at Nationwide Children's Hospital and has been the Chief of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health and Medical Director of the Big Lots Behavioral Health Service Line since July 2013. He is also a Professor and the Chief of the Child and Family Division in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at the Ohio State University College of Medicine. Prior to coming to Nationwide Children’s and Ohio State, he was a research principal investigator in the University of Pittsburgh’s Department of Psychiatry and the Medical Director of the Child and Adolescent Bipolar Services outpatient program at the Western Psychiatric Hospital. Since moving to Columbus, he has shifted his professional focus to the development of a comprehensive pediatric mental health system that can provide high-quality care to a large population of youth, train the next generation of providers, and be leveraged to perform clinically relevant research.

Abstract:
Rates of youth depression, anxiety and death by suicide have escalated over the past 15 years and have been exacerbated by the COVID pandemic. The crisis has led to a tremendous increase in youth presenting to emergency departments for mental and behavioral health concerns. A population health approach that integrates mental health services with other interventions may be the optimal strategy to address the youth mental health crisis. This presentation examines the population trends of youth mental health in the U.S. and outlines the development of a comprehensive system of pediatric mental health care that spans prevention strategies to crisis and inpatient psychiatric care.

Learning Objectives:
1. Describe population trends in youth mental health and suicide including presentation to emergency department.
2. Recognize the roles of different levels of care in pediatric mental health services.
3. Evaluate the role of a comprehensive system of care in addressing the demand for pediatric mental health services.

References: