School-based healthcare helps bridge gaps for rural children

For some children, living in rural areas presents barriers to behavioral health and developmental services. This can be not having access to transportation to a provider or simply not having a provider close enough to provide services.

Starting in 2015, Telehealth ROCKS (Rural Outreach for the Children of Kansas) is an organization that has been attempting to help ease these burdens for Kansas children by partnering with schools to meet healthcare needs with new technology and education. With all counties in Kansas now having access to high-speed internet, this has opened the door to use telemedicine technology to provide students with potentially life-saving care that they might otherwise not receive.

“We’re continuing best evidence-based care delivering services over telehealth,” Says Dr. Eve-Lynn Nelson, principal investigator for Telehealth Rocks, “Our program offers telepsychiatry which is crucial. For a while I think we had, maybe, two to three child psychologists in the whole state of Kansas.”

Telehealth ROCKS provides many services that children might otherwise be unable to receive. This can range from therapy services, as well as behavioral analytics for conditions such as autism. The organization also focuses heavily on school-
based healthcare options. Examples could be providing training for teachers and parents on how to utilize telehealth technology and create a more holistic support system for the child. Dr. Nelson also states that by integrating these practices into schools, it helps mitigate the stigmas that often are related to behavioral health services.

“I think it [school-based healthcare options] can take behavioral health to the next level." Dr. Nelson says, "It has the unique ability to link systems together that are all focused on the child. It really goes to what we know works with kids - when we work together in systems it helps the child get better.”

New Season for Telehealth Unmuted!

As we ring in the new year, Telehealth Unmuted is launching another season of the podcast! Season 2 will feature more subject matter experts, with a specific focus on the topic of health equity. Get the full scoop HERE!

**Episode 6** features Dr. Whitacre, a professor in the department of Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University. He has published over 60 peer-reviewed journal articles, with most exploring the relationship between internet access and rural development. He shares why broadband is crucial to quality of life, how to increase digital literacy, and studies on telehealth perceptions. Listen HERE on Spotify!

**Episode 7** is our first-ever cross-over episode with Upper Midwest Telehealth Resource Center’s A Virtual View podcast. Cameron Hilt, Caroline Yoder and Cara Lawlor join together for a very special collaboration, where they share their podcast journeys - from starting, to challenges, to big insights along the way. Listen HERE on Spotify!

**Episode 8** features Ben Bingham, Project Director of the Native Connections program. He has worked for the Eastern Shawnee tribe for the last twelve years.
shares his career journey, insights into tribal culture, and the importance of mental health for adolescents. Listen HERE on Spotify!

Check out our full list of episodes HERE on Spotify!

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## Updates and Opportunities

### HTRC's Education Series

HTRC is proud to present our Education Series, a webinar series centered on important telehealth topics.

Health care providers in KS, MO, or OK: this series is for YOU!

Register HERE.

**SAVE THE DATE for these upcoming webinars:**

**MARCH 16 | 12–1 PM CST**

**Policy, billing and guidelines around telehospice & telepalliative care**

This session will cover the role of telehealth in the delivery of hospice and palliative care services, with a focus on coding and billing requirements and flexibilities extended during the public health emergency.

**MARCH 30 | 12–1 PM CST**

**Long Term Care service delivery & billing**

This session will cover the role of telehealth in the long-term care setting, with a particular focus on skilled nursing facilities. Use of and billing for telehealth for physician visits and therapy services will be discussed.

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### Telemedicine ECHOs

**Missouri Telehealth Network Telemedicine ECHO**

The Heartland Telehealth Resource Center and Missouri Telehealth Network are offering a Telemedicine ECHO for organizations in Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma. Participants will learn how to leverage their current telehealth program into a permanent solution for patients. Or, if they’re new to telehealth, they’ll learn best practices for building your program. This nine-month ECHO will be held the second Tuesday of each month from 9 to 10 a.m. via online learning sessions.

To register online, click HERE and Select "Telemedicine" as the ECHO!

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### COVID-19 ECHOs

**Missouri Telehealth Network COVID-19 ECHO** will meet via Zoom video conferencing every Monday from noon to 1 p.m. Anyone interested in learning how to protect, diagnose and treat Missouri patients with COVID-19, as well as how to protect their
overall community, are encouraged to join. A multidisciplinary expert team led by Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Director Randall Williams, MD, will share the latest developments, answer questions, and discuss management of patient cases presented by participants. Register and learn more [here].

COVID-19 Resources

You can access the resources, [here]. Please share with others who could benefit from the information. We will continue to add and update resources as they come available.

Connect with us!

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