UPCOMING EVENTS:

6.15.22
Education Series Webinar
In-Person Requirements (6-Month Rule) for Mental Telehealth Visits

6.29.22
Education Series Webinar
Rural Health Centers Telehealth Coding, Billing and PHE Extension Review

Honoring Mental Health Awareness Month

While conversations surrounding mental health had been floating around before the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the public health emergency re-centered the conversation with a new sense of urgency. Disruptions of social norms and uncertainty surrounding the future fueled an increased need for mental health intervention.
With the relaxing of regulations around telehealth services, this led to the adoption of telebehavioral health visits. **Telebehavioral health is defined** as any telehealth services delivered by behavioral health professionals. This could include things such as cognitive behavioral therapy, general psychotherapy, or a number of other services.

“Telebehavioral health services have been the most utilized telehealth service during the pandemic.” Says HTRC principal investigator and psychologist Dr. Eve-Lynn Nelson, “We have had lots of providers and patients have good experiences with telebehavioral health.”

Dr. Nelson noted that HTRC’s role in telebehavioral health mainly revolves around ensuring providers are up to date on regulations, so they know what services are offered and covered. Given the current fluidity of telehealth regulations due to the federal public health emergency, how these services are billed and what qualifies can change.

Telebehavioral health shares similar benefits with that of the overall telehealth/telemedicine umbrella such as lower cost, convenience of access to services and fewer barriers to access of care. These services are also non-harmful when compared to other in-person methods and are just as effective in treatment. While telebehavioral health may not be the best fit for some providers and patients, for others it can provide an easier environment to engage with and seek treatment. Considering the stigma that has cast a long shadow over conversations on mental illness and mental health in general, these advances provide a needed step forward in caring for those with mental illnesses. Mental health awareness month can be used as a time to reflect on these steps forward as well as looking further down the road.

“It’s a great opportunity for folks to come together,” Dr. Nelson says, “To really share both challenges we’re facing in mental health as well as solutions such as telebehavioral health.”

To learn more, check out Telehealth Unmuted Episode 1 with Dr. Nelson [here](#)
New Episode of Telehealth Unmuted!

**Episode 10** features Dr. Aaron Katz, a pharmacoepidemiologist and health services researcher at the University of Kansas Medical Center. His primary research interests center around understanding the patient, health system, and policy level factors associated with the use and effects of cancer care, including those that underlie cancer disparities. 

Listen on [Spotify](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#)!

Check out our full list of episodes on [Spotify](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#)!

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:

**June 15 | 12 –1 PM CST**

**In-Person Requirements (6-Month Rule) for Mental Telehealth Visits**

Perhaps one of the most confounding changes to telehealth in recent years was the expanded access to mental and behavioral telehealth services under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020. While purportedly increasing access to these services under the Medicare program, the requirement to have an initial in-person visit and subsequent in-person visits under certain conditions has caused waves among behavioral health providers. This session focuses on the evolution of rules governing mental and behavioral telehealth services under the Medicare
program and when the in-person visit requirements do and do not apply.

**June 29 | 12 –1 PM CST**
**Rural Health Centers Telehealth Coding, Billing and PHE Extension Review**
This session discusses Medicare and applicable Medicaid telehealth rules for rural health clinics, including those flexibilities extended as part of the COVID-19 public health emergency. The future of telehealth in the RHC setting, including extension of telehealth flexibilities after the PHE and pending federal legislation directly impacting RHCs as telehealth providers will be discussed.

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**Telehealth ROCKS**

**Understanding Trauma-Focused Approaches**

**June 1 • June 8 • June 15**

**Telehealth ROCKS ECHO Series: Understanding Trauma-Focused Approaches**
The Telehealth ROCKS team invites you to attend a 3-part ECHO series concentrated on serving children who need focused tools, supports, and interventions following trauma exposure. Learn how to identify children in need of additional supports, what to expect from a well-trained trauma-responsive mental health provider, and how to successfully collaborate with mental health professionals. You’ll also receive an introduction to widely-used evidence-based interventions such as Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT.) Join us June 1, 8 and 15 from 1-2:30 PM CST! Registration [link](#)

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**Call for Abstracts: Telehealth Alliance of Oklahoma's Summit**
The Telehealth Alliance of Oklahoma (TAO) invites you to submit an abstract for oral and poster presentations at the 2022 TAO Telehealth Summit. This year’s Summit theme is Hybrid Healthcare and will be held on October 4th – 5th in Oklahoma City and remotely. Click [here](#) to submit today!

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**Tele-Behavioral Health Center of Excellence Webinars**
Webinars are free, but require registration. To attend a live webinar, please click this [link](#) to view full list.
Medicaid & State Telehealth Policy: Summer Webinar Series
Responding to continued requests, CCHP is hosting another webinar series on state telehealth policy. Webinars will take place every Friday over a four-week period in June 2022. The series will cover school-based telehealth, state licensure impacts on telehealth, telehealth private payer laws, and Medicaid telehealth policy & substance use disorder.
This webinar series is FREE of charge for all who wish to attend and each session will be closed captioned. Register here!

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!

Sign up for HRSA eNews!
HRSA eNews is a free, twice-monthly publication that provides updates on HRSA’s programs, funding opportunities, events, and other timely information. Subscription includes updates on grant opportunities, rural health, telehealth, and any information you are interested in. Subscribe here!

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.
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.

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