



FORHP's Office for the Advancement of Telehealth

Telehealth in Rural Communities

January 15, 2020

2:50 – 3:50PM

Concurrent Breakout Session C

Carlos Mena, MS

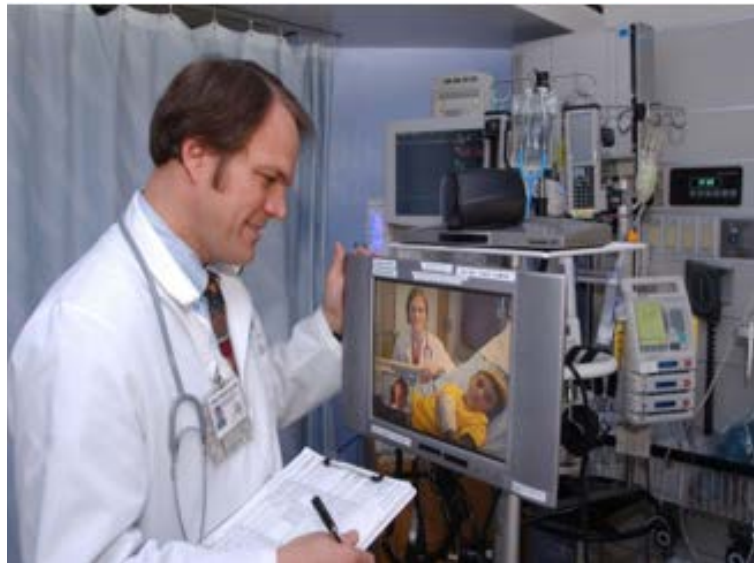
Public Health Analyst, Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (OAT)

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)



What's Telehealth?

The use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health, and health administration.



Technologies include:

- Internet
- Videoconferencing
- Store-and-forward imaging
- Streaming media
- Terrestrial and wireless communications

Current Telehealth Activities in HRSA

2019 Activities and Awards

- Currently over 1,300 HRSA awards include a telehealth component
- 50 states and 8 federal districts/territories have awards
- Telehealth activities include supporting distance learning, workforce, direct clinical care, infrastructure, and research



Increasing Access Through Telehealth

More than **27 million** people – **1 in 12** people across the United States – rely on a HRSA-funded health center for care, including:

1 IN 9
CHILDREN



1 IN 5
RURAL RESIDENTS



1 IN 3
LIVING IN POVERTY



More than **355,000**
VETERANS



ABOUT 3.5 MILLION
PUBLICLY HOUSED



NEARLY 1.4 MILLION
HOMELESS



NEARLY 1 MILLION
AGRICULTURAL WORKERS



MORE THAN 800,000
SERVED AT SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS

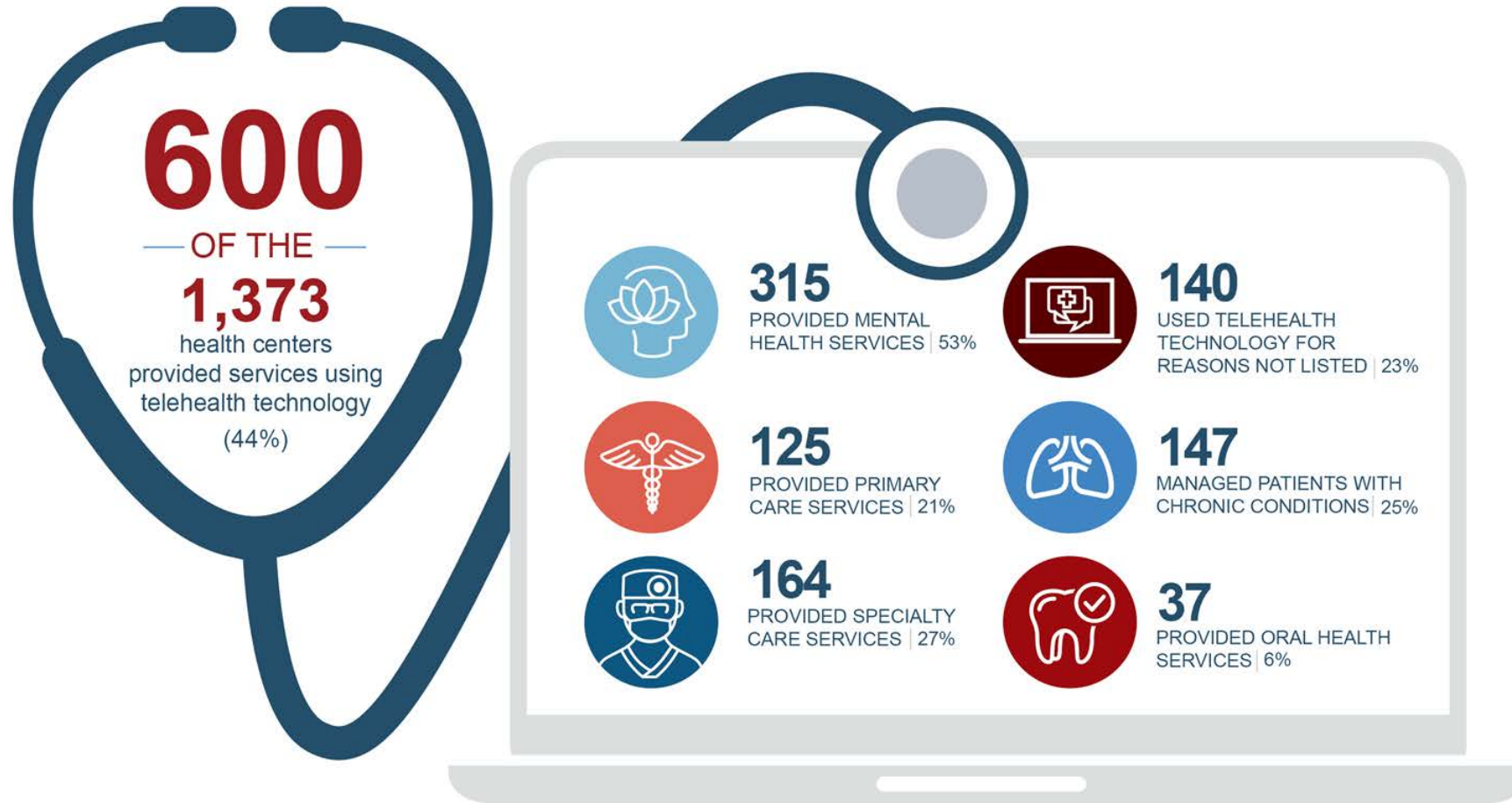
2017 UDS Data

Source: Uniform Data System, 2017



Increasing Access Through Telehealth – 2017 Data

Health Center Telehealth Services



2017 UDS data

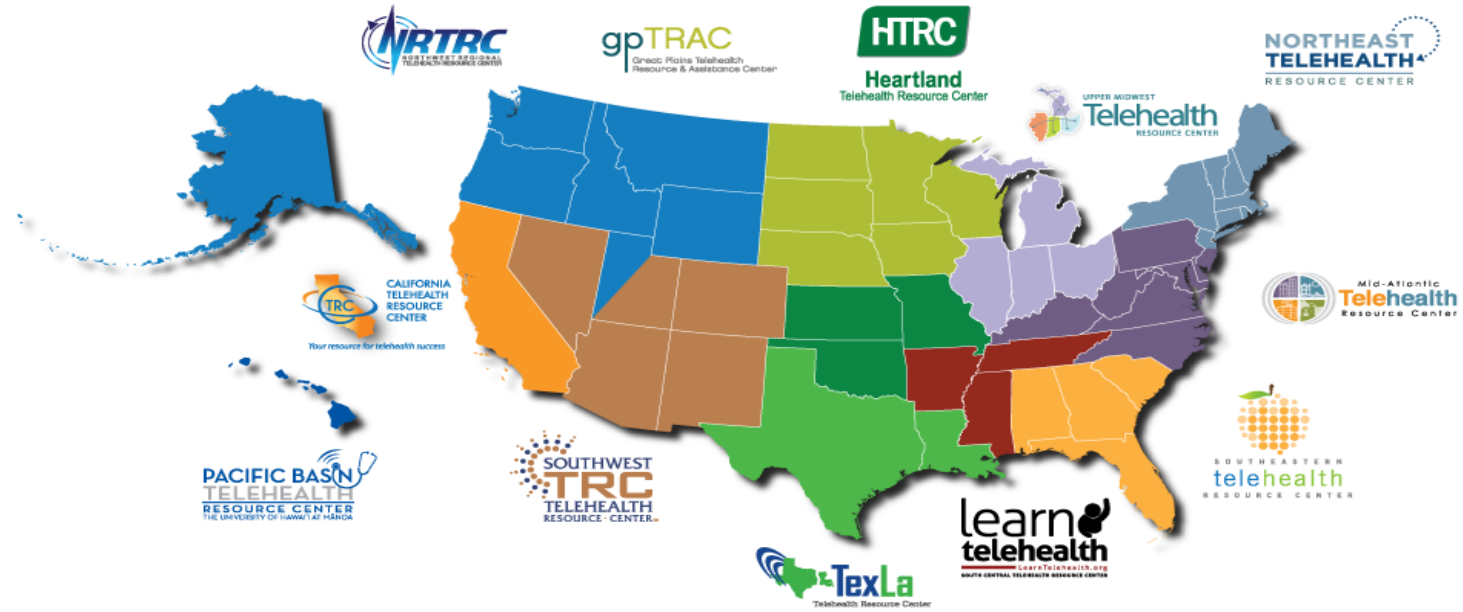
OAT Programs (FY2019) - \$24.5M

Program	Awardees	Amount
Telehealth Network Grant Program	21	\$6.3 M
Substance Abuse Treatment Network Grant Program	3	\$0.75 M
Evidence-Based Telebehavioral Health Network Program	14	\$4.9 M
Telehealth Resource Centers	14	\$4.6 M
Telehealth Centers of Excellence	2	\$4.0 M
Telehealth-Focused Rural Health Research Center	1	\$0.75 M
Licensure Portability Grant Program (New awards 2019)	2	\$0.50 M



HRSA Funded Telehealth Resource Centers

TelehealthResourceCenters.org






2 National Resource Centers

NRTRC	gpTRAC	NETRC
CTRC	HTRC	UMTRC
SWTRC	SCTRC	MATRC
PBTRC	TexLa	SETRC

12 Regional Resource Centers

TRC's have a mission to serve as a focal point for advancing the effective use of telehealth and support access to telehealth services in rural and underserved communities.



Telehealth Resource Centers Services

- Provide technical assistance, individual consultation, training, and support for healthcare providers and entities planning or providing telehealth services
- Disseminate information or research findings related to telehealth services
- Heavy online web presence – www.telehealthresourcecenters.org
- Monthly National Webinars
- Provide presentations at conferences for rural and underserved stakeholders
- Support effective collaboration among other TRCs



Telehealth Resource Centers Services Continued

- Conduct evaluations to determine the best utilization of telehealth technologies
- Conduct organizational telehealth assessments
- Implement special projects and studies
- Select technologies, platforms, and purchasing options
- Assess available wireless and broadband strengths
- Understand telehealth regulations, reimbursement models, and parity laws in states



TNGP - History

Authority: Section 330I(d)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 USC 254c-14), as amended; P.L. 114-53

“(1) TELEHEALTH NETWORK GRANTS.—The Director may, in carrying out the telehealth network grant program referred to in subsection (b), award grants to eligible entities for projects to demonstrate how telehealth technologies can be used through telehealth networks in rural areas, frontier communities, and medically underserved areas, and for medically underserved populations, to—

- (A) expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of health care services;**
- (B) improve and expand the training of health care providers; and**
- (C) expand and improve the quality of health information available to health care providers, and patients and their families, for decision making.**



SB-TNGP - History

- Four Year Project Period: September 1, 2016 – August 30, 2020
 - Currently in Y4 (9/1/19 – 8/31/20)
- 21 recipients working across 19 states:
 - Two recipients in New Mexico*:
 - Univ. of New Mexico
 - Ben Archer Health Center
 - Two recipients in Virginia*:
 - University of Virginia
 - Bay River's Telehealth Alliance
 - One Tribal recipient:
 - Fort Peck & Assiniboine Sioux Tribe (MT)
- Two recipients prime scope is Project ECHO*:
 - Community Health Center, Inc.
 - Kennedy Krieger Institute

* No duplication of originating sites



SB-TNGP - History

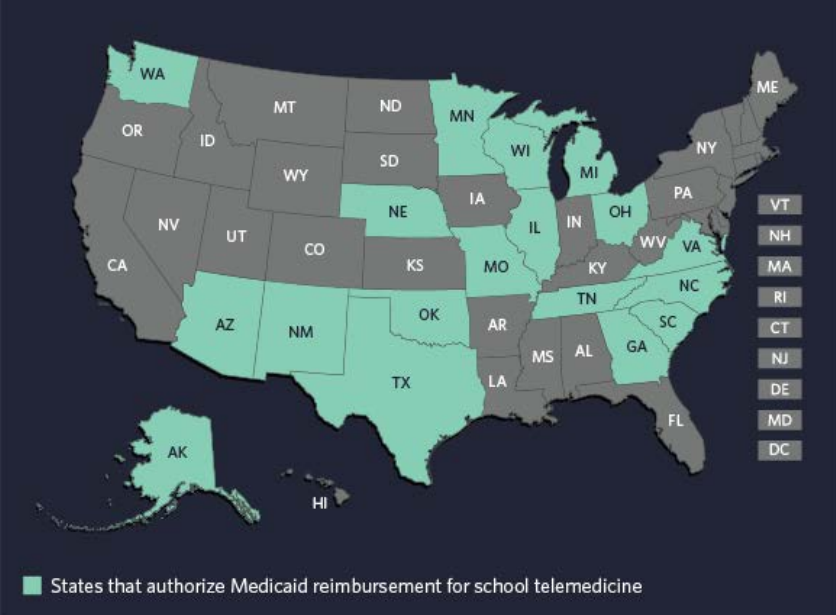
TELEHEALTH NETWORK GRANT PROGRAM (21 RECIPIENTS) -- Project Period (PP) 9/1/2016 - 8/31/2020							
RECIPIENT NAME	CITY	ST	GRANT #	BP1 Award Amount	BP2 Award Amount	BP3 Award Amount	BP4 Award Amount
				9/1/2016 - 8/31/2017	9/1/2017 - 8/31/2018	9/1/2018 - 8/31/2019	9/1/2019 - 8/31/2020
UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO	Albuquerque	NM	H2ARH30307	\$ 299,999.00	\$ 299,999.00	\$299,999.00	\$299,999.00
KENNEDY KRIEGER CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL INC	Baltimore	MD	H2ARH30299	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 285,171.00	\$290,522.00	\$292,249.00
RECTOR & VISITORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA	Charlottesville	VA	H2ARH30303	\$ 293,865.00	\$ 299,992.00	\$290,828.00	\$293,770.00
VOLUNTEER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM	CHATTANOOGA	TN	H2ARH30308	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER OF BRANCH COUNTY	Coldwater	MI	H2ARH30292	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
BAPTIST HEALTH FOUNDATION CORBIN, INC.	Corbin	KY	H2ARH30288	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY	Greenville	NC	H2ARH30295	\$ 299,999.00	\$ 299,999.00	\$299,999.00	\$299,999.00
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEDICAL CENTER RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC.	Kansas City	KS	H2ARH30306	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
INDIANA RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION	Linton	IN	H2ARH30298	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS SYSTEM	Little Rock	AR	H2ARH30305	\$ 299,720.00	\$ 295,419.00	\$299,431.00	\$293,451.00
MARSHFIELD CLINIC	Marshfield	WI	H2ARH30300	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
CHILDREN'S DENTAL SERVICES	Minneapolis	MN	H2ARH30291	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CORPORATION	Morgantown	WV	H2ARH30310	\$ 299,992.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
FORT PECK ASSINIBOINE & SIOUX TRIBES	Poplar	MT	H2ARH30297	\$ 297,041.00	\$ 293,479.00	\$289,996.00	\$293,699.00
AVERA HEALTH	Sioux Falls	SD	H2ARH30287	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
SUNNYSIDE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL ASSN	Sunnyside	WA	H2ARH30304	\$ 298,230.00	\$ 298,230.00	\$298,230.00	\$298,230.00
BAY RIVERS TELEHEALTH ALLIANCE	Tappahannock	VA	H2ARH30289	\$ 299,999.00	\$ 299,999.00	\$299,999.00	\$299,999.00
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, INCORPORATED	Middletown	CT	H2ARH30294	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 284,479.00	\$279,590.00	\$277,807.00
BASSETT, MARY IMOGENE HOSPITAL	Cooperstown	NY	H2ARH30301	\$ 297,419.00	\$ 283,815.00	\$294,235.00	\$296,870.00
QUALITY OF LIFE HEALTH SERVICES INC	Gadsden	AL	H2ARH30302	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
BEN ARCHER HEALTH CENTER, INC.	Hatch	NM	H2ARH30290	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
				\$ 6,286,264.00	\$ 6,240,582.00	\$ 6,242,829.00	\$ 6,246,073.00



HRSA's Telehealth Network Grant Program

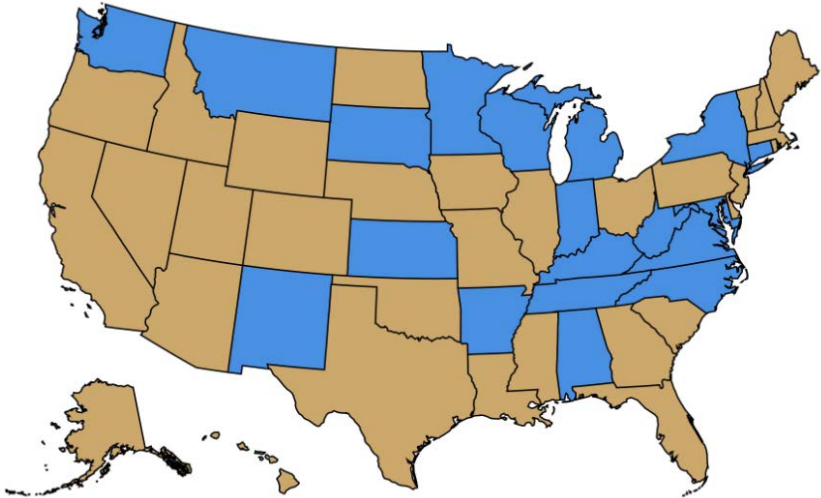
Telemedicine in Schools

States highlighted in the map have authorized Medicaid reimbursement for telemedicine services provided to schoolchildren.



Source: American Telemedicine Association, January 2016, and Stateline reporting
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21 Telehealth Network recipients – States in blue



Program's Current Activities – Accomplishments:

2018 School Based Health Alliance annual meeting (Indianapolis, IN)

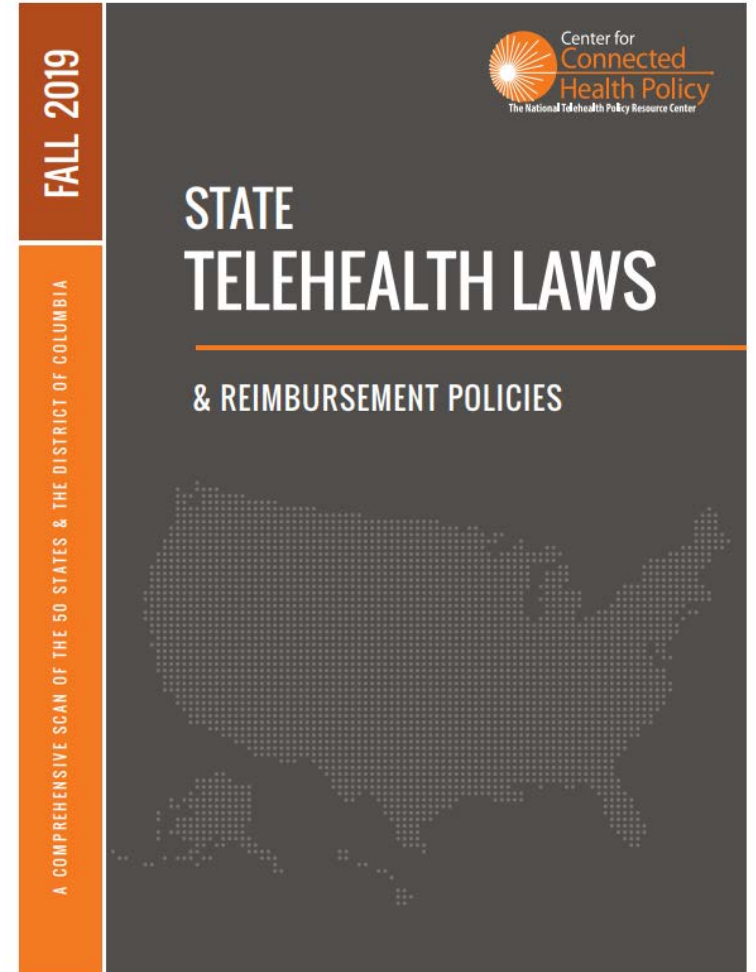


Program's Current Activities – Challenges:

- Reimbursement

- Recruitment, Retention, and Behavioral Health/Mental Health:

- BH/MH: highest need and demand for all schools in TNGP's 22 states
- Lack of qualified providers:
 - **Dieticians, Social Workers, Therapists, Counselors, NP's, RN's, Tele-presenters, Coordinators**
 - Wisconsin – Currently takes about 5 months to see a BH provider with PCP referral.
 - **Delays in hiring = Delays in successful project implementation.**
- Turnover:
 - **Demand > Workforce Capacity**
 - **Low wages**



Program's Current Activities – Challenges Continued 1:

Broadband Connectivity

- 53% of rural Americans lack access to benchmark service (25Mbps/3Mbps)
 - Montana ranks #1 and Arkansas ranks #3 for worst Broadband

Licensure:

- Many states require out-of-state clinicians providing telehealth services to be licensed in the state where the patient resides
- Credentialing and privileging



Program's Current Activities – Challenges Continued 2:

Privacy & Security

- FERPA Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (**FERPA**) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records.
- No integration of data between school and hub site due to FERPA and HIPAA
 - No access to data like absenteeism

Stakeholder/Partnership changes:

- School District/County Superintendent changes
- Re-education of project to Executive Leaders = Implementation delays



FORHP's Rural Telehealth Research Center (RTRC)

- Evaluation study began in September 2016.
- RTRC supported under the FORHP Rural Health Research Cooperative Agreement.
- Research partners: University of Iowa, University of North Carolina, and University of Southern Maine.

Year 2 Project 2 - Provide guidance on measures for the School-Based Telehealth Network Grant Program evaluation

Report – August 2017

School-Based Telehealth Network Grant Program Measures: Results and Recommendations

Prepared by the RTRC University of Southern Maine Team:

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Rural Telehealth Research Center
Partners:
University of Iowa
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
University of Southern Maine



HRSA's Rural Telehealth Research Center (RTRC)

Measure	Domain	Number of Measures
Targeted clinical measures (N= 17)	Asthma	4
Targeted clinical measures (N= 17)	Behavioral Health	3
Targeted clinical measures (N= 17)	Diabetes	3
Targeted clinical measures (N= 17)	Healthy Weight	3
Targeted clinical measures (N= 17)	Oral Health	4
Non-clinical measures (N = 10)	Access	4
Non-clinical measures (N = 10)	Prevention	1
Non-clinical measures (N = 10)	Telehealth Process and Structure	1
Non-clinical measures (N = 10)	School Performance	1
Non-clinical measures (N = 10)	Cost effectiveness/Cost saving	3
-	TOTAL	27



Questions?

