

- Telehealth's role in a growing behavioral health agency
- How we utilize telehealth
- In-house use vs. partnership improvement
- Lessons learned

Telehealth's Role in Behavioral Healthcare

Improving delivery of care for in-house services and through partnerships

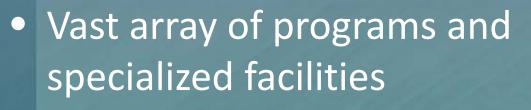




• 24+ Outpatient Clinics

• Over 130 schools







• Nearly 1,000 employees



More than 20,000 clients served annually



MCCC & Telehealth

In-house

Through partnerships

Partnerships

Essential tool allowing MCCC to develop strategic partnerships with organizations, improving the level of care available through those organizations

In-house

Primary means of linking services across geographically dispersed clinics, programs, and specialized facilities

In-House Utilization

Pros according to clients:

- More convenient
- Improved access
- Speed of services
- Ability to stay with certain prescriber

Pros according to staff:

- Appointments require less lead time
- Better quality of care resulting from continuity
- Easier access to prescriber for questions/concerns



In-House Utilization

Cons according to clients:

- Loss of personal touch
- Clients may feel assessment is inadequate
- Clients may feel prescriber is not as invested in their treatment

Cons according to staff:

- Electronic glitches/technical difficulties
- Staff availability to assist with every client
- Loss of face-to-face contact with prescriber to discuss treatment



In-House Utilization

Expectations vs. Reality

- Expected clients to be more resistant
- Working with prescribers' schedules to ensure coverage is more difficult than expected
- Reliance on technology results in issues

Lessons Learned

- Telehealth is effective for most clients
- Clients like that telehealth is quick and easy
- It is less effective with some psychotic clients. Increases symptomology.





Safe Harbor Ashland, KY

- Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter
- Provides services for residents on-site
- Provides behavioral health services via MCCC partnership
- Improves comprehensive services available to residents who lack resources or are typically non-compliant



Primary Plus Ohio Valley Region

- Community Health Center that provides primary care services, etc.
- Serves Ohio Valley region of northern and northeastern KY
- MCCC partnership developed to better meet behavioral health needs of patients



Acceptance

Feedback

Safe Harbor

Receptive: No clients have rejected services related to telehealth

Clients:

 Talking to provider is less stressful

Safe Harbor Staff:

- Telehealth is easily accessed
- Beneficial to both staff & clients
- Limited training necessary
- Positive Outcomes

Primary Plus

Receptive with some hesitance

Clients:

 Initial confusion of process, though improves

MCCC Staff:

 Partner staff/admin often impressed by service; good relationship

Primary Plus:

 Positive overall, though each provider's use differs



Safe Harbor

Pros

- Decreased wait
- Increase in clients served
- Served on emergent basis
- Acceptance of need for services
- Cons

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Lessons Learned

- Connectivity issues
- Difficult for paranoid and other individuals during severely symptomatic episode
- Overall a great asset to Safe Harbor
- Allows traumatized individuals to remain in safe/comfortable setting
- Allows proper assessment
- Improves quality of life for many women & children

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Primary Plus

- Serving clients that may not otherwise have access
- Allows physicians at Primary Plus to ensure patients are receiving best care possible
- Initial confusion, though staff does well in preparing clients
- Anxiety for some clients
- Internal scheduling conflicts
 - Many initial issues resolved
- Scheduling conflicts present greatest obstacle to growing this service



In-house/Partnership Comparison

- Telehealth is generally well-accepted by clients
- Pros and cons are similar for each, though partnerships result in shared frustration related to negatives
- Partnerships also result in additional steps within processes
- Partnerships introduce concerns parties other than staff/clients
- Outcomes for both are better through improved access
- Technical difficulties and client anxiety/confusion are overarching concerns for both
- Scheduling conflicts present in different fashions for each, but are cause for concern
- Shared concerns & benefits, though continually addressed

Providing quality behavioral health care that offers **Recover** Comprehe ountain

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Telehealth's Role in Behavioral Healthcare

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