



Office for the Advancement of Telehealth

New SORH Directors Orientation

November 6, 2019

Sadie Silcott, MBA, MPH
Deputy Director
Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (OAT)
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)

Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People



OAT Division's Primary Goal

Overarching Goal

- Promote the use of telehealth technologies for health care delivery, education, and health information services

We achieve our goal through:

- Funding various programmatic grants and cooperative agreements

Telehealth: the use of electronic information and telecommunication technologies to support and promote long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health and health administration.

Telehealth Technologies: video conferencing, the internet, store-and-forward imaging, streaming media, and terrestrial and wireless communications.



OAT Leadership

Bill
England

Director, Office for the
Advancement of Telehealth

Determines the vision/mission for the division. Is the expert on telehealth and determines the strategies that will continue to drive the field to incorporate telehealth, when applicable, in health care services.

Sadie
Silcott

Deputy Director, Office for the
Advancement of Telehealth

Oversees OAT activities to ensure that program goals are being met and operations are within budget, and that the division has the necessary staffing, resources and training that it needs.

The OAT Team

Name	Primary Role
Bill England	Division Director
Sadie Silcott	Deputy Division Director
Carlos Mena	PC – School Based Telehealth Network Grant Program (SB TNGP)
Colleen Morris	PC – Center for Excellence Program (COE)

Name	Primary Role
Monica Cowan	PC – Rural Child Poverty Telehealth Network Grant Program (RCP TNGP) PC – Licensure Portability Grant Program (LPGP)
Natassja Manzanero	PC – National Telehealth Resource Center Program (NTRC) PC – Regional Telehealth Resource Center Cooperative Agreement (RTRC)
Stephanie Begley	PC – Substance Abuse Treatment Telehealth Network Grant Program (SAT TNGP)
Whitney Wiggins	PC – Evidence-Based Tele-Behavioral Health Telehealth Network Program (EB THNP)

PO (Project Officer) – monitors portfolio of assigned grantees, exercises programmatic and oversight activities.

PC (Program Coordinator) – Provides overall leadership in administration and oversight of the grant programs/Cooperative Agreements. Responsible for program development, review, award and monitoring.

COR (Contracting Officer Representative) – Serves as primary liaison between contractor and HRSA's Contracts office. Provides technical direction, assures proper payment for services, monitors contractor progress and performance.



OAT Programs

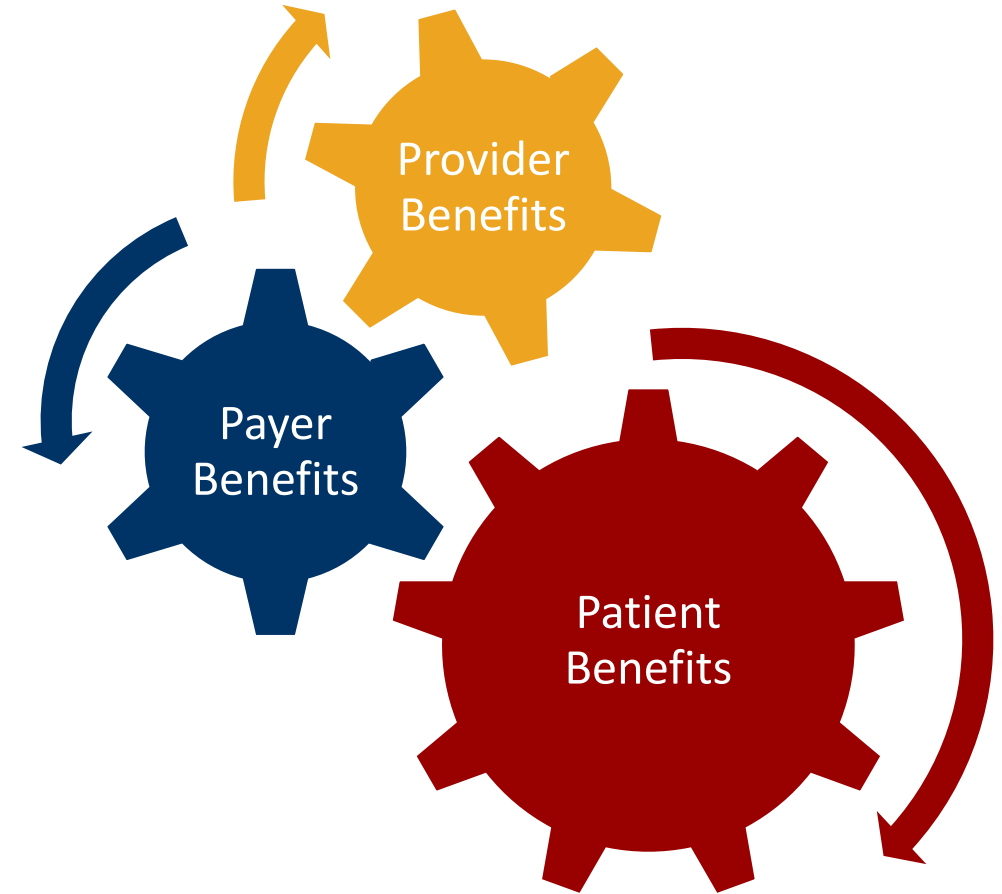
Grants/Cooperative Agreements



Benefits of Telehealth

- **Telehealth benefits:**

- Improves workforce development
- Improves care delivery
- Increases access to care



Telehealth Policy Challenges



Reimbursement



Licensure

Challenges

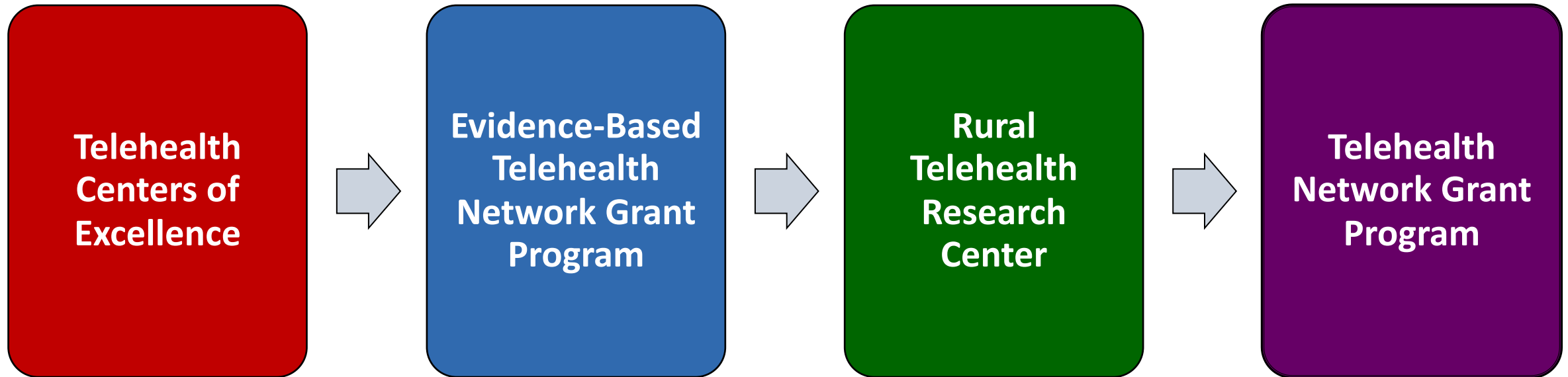


Prescribing



Credentialing

OAT's Continuum of Grant Programs



School-Based Telehealth Network Grant Program

Demonstrates the use of telehealth networks to improve healthcare services for medically underserved populations in urban, rural, and frontier communities.

Networks can be used 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/or;
- (c) expand and improve the quality of health information available to health care providers, patients, and their families.

- FY16 Project Period: 9/1/16 – 8/31/20
- Number of Awards: 21 recipients
- Amt. per award/year: Up to \$300,000/year



Telehealth Centers of Excellence

Examines the efficacy of telehealth services in rural and urban areas. The Telehealth Centers of Excellence are located in public academic medical centers that:

- (a) had a successful telehealth program with a high annual volume of telehealth visits;
- (b) is financially self-sustaining and;
- (c) has established programs that provide telehealth services in medically underserved areas with high chronic disease prevalence and high poverty rates.

- FY17 Project Period: 9/30/17 – 9/29/20
- Number of Awards: 2 recipients
- Amt. per award/year: Up to \$2,000,000/year



Rural Child Poverty Telehealth Network Grant Program

Demonstrated how telehealth networks can expand access to, coordinate and improve the quality of health care services for children living in impoverished rural areas and in particular how such networks can be enhanced through the integration of social and human service organizations.

- FY15 Project Period: 9/1/15 – 8/31/18
- Number of Awards: 3 recipients (No Cost Extension)
- Amt. per award/year: Up to \$325,000/year



Licensure Portability Grant Program

Provides support for State professional licensing boards to carry out programs under which licensing boards of various States cooperate to develop and implement State policies that will reduce statutory and regulatory barriers to telemedicine.

- FY19 Project Period: 7/1/19 – 6/30/24
- Number of Awards: 2 recipients
- Amt. per award/year: Up to \$250,000/year



National Telehealth Resource Center Program

Supports delivery of telehealth technical assistance by RTRC recipients. Two NTRCs, focused on policy and technology services include:

- training and support,
 - dissemination of pertinent information and research findings,
 - support effective collaboration and,
 - foster the use of telehealth technologies to increase access, timeliness, cost effectiveness or quality of health care service delivery in rural and medically underserved areas and populations.
-
- FY18 Project Period: 9/1/17 – 8/31/21
 - Number of Awards: 2 recipients
 - Amt. per award/year: Up to \$325,000/year



Regional Telehealth Resource Center Cooperative Agreement

Provide expert and customized telehealth technical assistance across the country. RTRCs are located regionally to facilitate grant activities at the local level and to ensure that resources are geographically distributed. RTRCs will share expertise through individual consultations, training, webinars, conference presentations, and a significant web presence.

- FY18 Project Period: 9/1/17 – 8/31/21
- Number of Awards: 12 recipients
- Amt. per award/year: Up to \$325,000/year



Substance Abuse Treatment Telehealth Network Grant Program

Demonstrates how telehealth programs and networks improve access to health care services, particularly substance abuse treatment services, in rural, frontier, and underserved communities. Telehealth networks are used to:

- expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of health care services;
 - improve and expand the training of health care providers and/or;
 - expand and improve the quality of health information available to health care providers, and patients and their families, for decision-making.
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- FY17 Project Period: 9/30/17 – 8/31/20
 - Number of Awards: 3 recipients
 - Amt. per award/year: Up to \$250,000/year



Evidence-Based Tele-Behavioral Health Network Program

Utilize telehealth networks to increase access to behavioral health care services in rural and frontier communities and conduct evaluations of those efforts to establish an evidence-base for assessing the effectiveness of tele-behavioral health care for patients, providers, and payers.

- FY18 Project Period: 9/1/18 – 8/31/21
- Number of Awards: 14 recipients
- Amt. per award/year: Up to \$350,000/year



West Virginia University's Telehealth Program

Wyoming, McDowell and Mercer Counties

Goal: Provide tele-behavioral health services focusing on high-risk adults as well as related family needs

- Includes a comparison to services provided face-to-face
- Includes a 12-week addiction intensive outpatient program for SUD patients and medication-assisted treatment

Achievements to Date:

- Currently working with over 37 patients
- Network has had more than 791 encounters



HRSA Telehealth Workgroup

- **Address the Barriers to Telehealth**
 - Telehealth Inventory
 - Project Officer Training on Telehealth
- **Promote HRSA's Engagement in Telehealth**
 - HRSA Telehealth Learning Series
 - Telehealth Themed Journal Supplement
- **Encourage HRSA Recipients to use Telehealth**
 - Standard Language for NOFOs
- **Quantify HRSA's Investment**
 - Identify and inventory existing data
 - Analyze the data and work to align measures
 - Develop a summary and recommendation



Federal Telehealth Workgroup (FedTel)

- Workgroup created to facilitate telehealth awareness, education, and information sharing
- 35 participating agencies/departments



Contact Information

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