

Position Statement

2021

Statewide Strategy To Develop a Common Public-Private Telepresence Platform

Proposal

Issue: Public Health & Human Services, especially in the areas of mental health and substance use disorders, have rapidly increasing demands on person-centered service provision. Internet-based telepresence offers broad applications to assist in rapid innovation and statewide service implementation. Increasingly, different telepresence platforms are being used by different sectors and disciplines, making it difficult to efficiently and effectively connect with critical partnerships, providers and individuals that depend on access.

Systemic Priority: Service Integration, Equity, Fiscal Framework

Implementation Strategy: Develop a public-private common telepresence network to connect providers of critical services, especially in the areas of mental health and substance use disorders, with individuals that are not currently able to receive adequate services – possibly due to geographic location, lack of transportation or providers, or due to limitations such as incarceration. Service recipients, providers, along with local, state and tribal governments, will be more able to rapidly communicate, integrate and innovate across disciplines, geographic barriers and other silos that currently prevent the delivery of high quality, person-centered services throughout Minnesota.

Systemic Priority Alignment (check all that apply and explain why)

Rationale/Background:

Historically, the State of Minnesota has sponsored a mobile, easily connected, secure telepresence platform to provide healthcare services to Direct Care & Treatment programs. The access to the state's telepresence platform has allowed Minnesota counties, tribes, community mental health centers, local hospitals/emergency departments, county jails, schools, mobile crisis teams and many others to interconnect quickly with each other to access critical services. Although this need has been known for many years, the COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the need for a Minnesota telepresence strategy to deal with equity and access issues. As we become more interdependent in providing effective services in areas such as the "mental health ecosystem", the development of a public-private telepresence strategy has become increasingly urgent.

Additional Information:



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