Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators
Position Statement
2022

Task Force to Develop a Statewide Public-Private Telepresence Strategy

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. Telepresence offers broad applications to assist in rapid innovation and statewide service implementation. 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 Minnesota public-private common telepresence strategy to efficiently connect providers of critical services, especially in the areas of mental health and substance use disorders serving individuals that are unable to receive adequate services. possibly due to geographic location, lack of transportation or providers, 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:

Telepresence 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. The rapid, uncoordinated growth of this technology has led to an expensive, cumbersome system. 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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