Telepsychiatry/Tele-Mental Health

- **Increase access to psychiatric care in the Sandhills Region**

- **Offer real-time Psychiatric Assessments/Consults**

- **Educate and empower primary care providers to manage patients with behavioral health issues.**

- **Increase the dialogue/collaboration between primary care and behavioral health providers.**

- **Build the case for integrated care in the Sandhills region.**

- **40 CCS Practices, 3-year–Phased Approach**

- **Collaborative Project Between:**
  - **Easter Seals**
  - **FirstHealth of the Carolinas**
  - **Monarch NC**
  - **Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust**

Health Professionals in North Carolina, Physician Specialties, 2011

Type of Physician Specialty	Counties with 0	Counties with 1	Counties with 2 or more	Total # of Professionals Statewide
Addiction Psychiatry	95	3	2	9
Addiction/Chemical Dependency	87	9	4	22
Psychiatry	28	18	54	971
Child Psychiatry	70	14	16	146
Geriatric Psychiatry	94	4	2	9
Source: Cecil B. Sheps Center for Health Services at UNC—Chapel Hill				

Benefits of Telepsychiatry

- Travel time is reduced or eliminated
- Telehealth equipment costs have plummeted.
- Patients in distress can be seen more quickly, reducing relapse events.
- Consultations with off-site specialists can be quickly carried out.
- Off-site and part-time behavioral health specialists can be members of the clinic team via telehealth.
- Staff can meet and collaborate more easily, especially when connecting staff located at various sites.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, "Increasing Access to Behavioral Health Care Through Technology," Meeting Summary, March 30, 2012, Rockville, MD, published February 2013, p. 3.

Have Questions? Please contact:

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