Implementation of Telehealth in School Based Clinics

Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Department of Psychiatry
Background

- Vanderbilt School Based Program has partnered with MNPS to provide evidence-based treatment to students on-site at schools for over 28 years.
- We serve about 870 children and adolescents in 34 elementary and middle school sites across Davidson County.
Program Staffing

- Masters Level Therapists (27 FTE)
- Psychiatric Advanced Practice Nurse (0.4 FTE)
- Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Fellows (0.4 FTE)
- Supervising Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist (0.1 FTE)
- Clinical Director (1 FTE)
Stage 1: Initial Medication Management Model

- Multiple site visits per month. All visits completed in person
- Initial evaluations and ongoing medication management
- Additional NP time added to program
Evaluating Access to Medication Management Services

- Travel to school sites can be inefficient
- Telepsychiatry would allow for greater access and efficiency
Stage Two: Telehealth

- Telehealth pilot begins
  - In-person visits continue for remaining schools
  - Use of telehealth highlighted barriers
Stage Three: Implementation

- Fall of 2017, vision for telehealth program wide developed
- Full implementation January – May 2018
Current – Revision stage

- New platform
- Standardized expectations of all participants
Standard appointment

- Therapist schedules (30 min time slot)
- Parent comes to school
- Call is made, provider talks with parent
- Child participates last 15 min
- Treatment plan created or revised
- Follow up scheduled
Reimbursement for Telepsychiatry

- Specifier is added to CPT code for medication management
- TN Care case rate
  - No additional revenue generated by the visit
  - Particular amount per patient per month that covers all services patient needs
Future Directions

- Data gathering
- Modifications based on data
Type of school served

- Elementary: 52%
- Middle: 23%
- High School: 12%
- Charter: 13%