

Project ECHO Nevada: Evolving to Improve Access to Care in Rural Nevada

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ECHO vs. Telemedicine



Traditional Telemedicine



Specialist Manages Patient Remotely







Project ECHO Nevada Background



- Planning began in late 2010
- Rural road trips/site visits/needs assessment during July and August 2011
- First clinic launched April 2012 Diabetes ECHO
- Currently 12 active ECHO clinics + 3 inactive

Project ECHO Nevada Clinics – Primary Care Providers

- Sports Medicine*
- Gastroenterology
- Public Health
- Behavioral Health in Primary Care*
- Pain Management*
- Diabetes/General Endocrine*
- Antibiotic Stewardship
- Rheumatology
- Hepatitis C
- Geriatrics*

*= 1 or more behavioral health specialists on interdisciplinary team



Project ECHO Nevada Clinics – Behavioral Health Providers

- Mental Health Professional Development Group (Junior Clinicians)
- Mental Health Professional Development Group (Experienced Clinicians)
- Psychology Internship Supervision Group
- Marriage and Family Therapist Internship Supervision Group



How Does ECHO Improve Access to Health Care?

- Saves cost and travel time for patient
- Reduced time from diagnosis to treatment
- Improved recruitment and retention of health workforce
- Improved reimbursement for health care facilities
- Well-aligned with transition to value-based models



Recruitment and Retention

Physician and Primary Care Workforce – 2014 Number per 100,000 Population

Profession	Rural & Frontier	Urban	Nevada
Allopathic Physicians (MD)	72.8	183.4	172.3
Adv Practitioners of Nursing (APN)	19.7	33.2	31.9
Osteopathic Physicians (DO)	15.8	21.6	21.0
Physician Assistants (PA)	14.1	20.9	20.2
Primary Care Physicians (MD & DO)	49.6	90.4	86.3

Source: Nevada Rural and Frontier Health Data Book, 7th Edition. University of Nevada School of Medicine (2015).



Why is ECHO Still Considered an Innovative Model After 13 Years?

- Versatility of application
- Dynamic Needs-based & always adjusting/readjusting
- Program has only been replicated for ~5 years, but...
 - There's now over 46 different disease ECHO's
 - 96 Hubs worldwide
 - New applications identified continuously
- Momentum, commitment, and collaboration



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