

## CARE MODEL

Heywood Hospital implemented a collaborative school-based tele-behavioral health initiative in collaboration with the local school system to bridge gaps in care for adolescents with unmet behavioral health needs. The initiative provides counseling services in the schools through remote video consultations between the students and mental health clinicians at one of Heywood's

partner organizations, with the additional support of a guidance counselor who serves as the care coordinator and facilitator of the visits. The program builds upon Heywood Hospital's work to expand access to behavioral health services in their community to students through the HPC's CHART investment program.

## IMPACT

**\$425.5K**  
HPC AWARD

**\$461K**  
TOTAL PROJECT COST

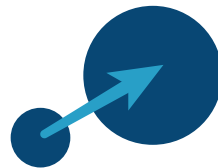
TARGET POPULATION  
**Middle and High School Students**  
with Unmet Behavioral Health  
Care Needs

PRIMARY & SECONDARY AIMS:

**↑ 10%**  
behavioral health care  
access

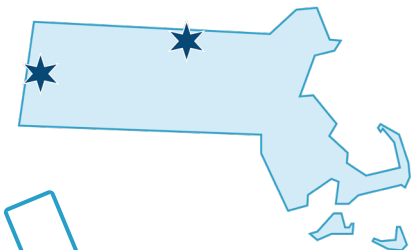
**↓ 10%**  
acute care crisis  
intervention in schools

**↓ 20%**  
behavioral health ED visits



## PARTNERS

- Narragansett Regional Middle and High School
- Telehealth Resource Center
- Clinical and Support Options
- Ralph C. Mahar Regional School
- McLean Hospital
- Athol Hospital



## HCII PATHWAY SUMMARY

In 2016, the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission (HPC) launched its \$1.8 million Telemedicine Pilots pathway of the Health Care Innovation Investment (HCII) Program. The Telemedicine Pilots aim to demonstrate the potential of telemedicine to address critical behavioral health care access challenges in high-need and underserved target populations. The four 12-month pilots provide expanded access to behavioral health care for children and adolescents, individuals with Substance Use Disorder (SUD), and older adults aging in place.

## HPC BACKGROUND

The Massachusetts Health Policy Commission (HPC), established in 2012, is an independent state agency charged with monitoring health care spending growth in Massachusetts and providing data-driven policy recommendations regarding health care delivery and payment system reform. The HPC's mission is to advance a more transparent, accountable, and innovative health care system through independent policy leadership and investment programs. Visit us at [Mass.gov/HPC](http://Mass.gov/HPC). Tweet us @Mass\_HPC.