

Pediatric Physician’s Organization

at Children’s Hospital

CARE MODEL

The Pediatric Physician’s Organization at Children’s Hospital (PPOC) implemented a telemedicine initiative to provide critical psychiatric care to pediatric patients with otherwise limited access to behavioral health services. In this model, primary care physicians facilitate remote video consultations for patients with a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist (CAP) based at Boston Children’s Hospital for both diagnostic and follow-up care. The model allows children

and adolescents to conveniently receive treatment at the same location as other medical care: their local pediatrician’s office. Through increased access to timely, local behavioral health care, PPOC can diagnose and treat conditions earlier and eliminate barriers for families to receive necessary behavioral health care to improve health and minimize emergent acute care utilization.

IMPACT

\$341.2K
HPC AWARD

\$465K
TOTAL PROJECT COST

TARGET POPULATION
**Children and Adolescents with
Complex Psychiatric
Presentations**

PRIMARY & SECONDARY AIMS:



↑ 75%
number of initial diagnosis
evaluations within 15 days of
identification of need

↓ 25%
BH symptoms

↑ 10 points
functional status

↓ 30%
ED visits for 6 months

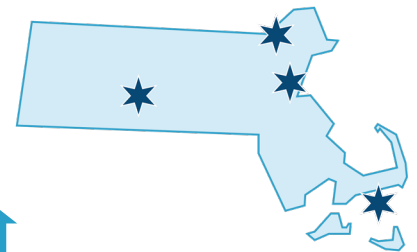
↓ 10%
total medical expense

↓ 30%
psychiatric inpatient
utilization for 6 months

↑ 80%
satisfaction ratings by
providers, patients,
and parents

PARTNERS

- Boston Children’s Hospital Department of Psychiatry
- Greater Lowell Pediatrics (serves Lowell and Westford)
- Briarpatch Pediatrics (serves Sandwich, Yarmouthport, and Nantucket)
- Holyoke Pediatric Associates (services Holyoke and South Hadley)



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. Tweet us @Mass_HPC.