



Greetings Northwest Region:



We Hope That Your Summer is Off to an Excellent Start!

- All of us at NRTRC look forward to longer days and festive summer celebrations with friends and family, and we hope you are too!
- Due to the July 4 Independence Day holiday, there will not be a newsletter in July, but stay tuned for telehealth updates in the August newsletter.
- As always, time-sensitive telehealth announcements are made on our website at nrtrc.org and on social media, so be sure to follow us.

TeleBehavioral Health 501 Webinar Series

Don't Miss Our sixth TeleBehavioral Health CME/CEU accredited 501 series presentation!

Friday, June 21, at 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. PT

Innovations in Technology-Based Interventions and AI Integration

Overview:

Dr. Jacobson will address the innovative realm of technology-based interventions in behavioral health, and how these interventions can offer evidence-based mental health treatments at individual and population levels.



He will also speak to ongoing research exploring the integration of AI to dynamically respond to client input with therapeutic responses. This webinar promises to shed light on cutting-edge developments that are reshaping the future of mental health treatment.

Nicholas Jacobson, PhD:

Dr. Nick Jacobson is an assistant professor in the departments of Biomedical Data Science, Psychiatry, and Computer Science at Dartmouth College's Geisel School of Medicine. He's the director of the Treatment Development and Evaluation Core within the Center for Technology and Behavioral Health at Dartmouth. Dr. Jacobson also directs the Aland Mental Health: Innovation in Technology Guided Healthcare (AIM HIGH) Laboratory and has a strong interest in using technology to enhance the assessment and treatment of anxiety and depression.

His work has focused on using passive sensor data from smartphones and wearable devices to improve precision assessment and provide personalized technology-based treatments. Dr. Jacobson has published 100 peer-reviewed articles and secured over \$4 million as PI and over \$20 million in funding as a co-investigator.

The NRTRC is excited to partner with the Behavioral Health Institute at the University of Washington to deliver the [TeleBehavioral Health 501 webinar series](#). We invite you to delve into innovative approaches and patient-centered care in the realm of telebehavioral health.

[Click here](#) to begin learning!

CMS Includes Telehealth in Critical Booklet

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has updated its Medicare Learning Network (MLN) booklet on Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Services to include a section for telehealth services.

SBIRT services encompass annual screenings and counseling for alcohol misuse, depression screenings in primary care settings, and wellness visits that include substance use disorder (SUD) screenings and mental health services.

The new telehealth section specifies that Medicare covers interactive telecommunications, including 2-way interactive, audio-only technology to diagnose, evaluate, or treat certain SUDs using telehealth services if the patient is in their home. It also states that providers can provide telehealth using 2-way interactive audio-only technology, and that they will pay telehealth services to patient's homes at the non-facility physician service rate through Dec. 31, 2024.

For more on SBIRT services, see the entire [MLN Guidance Booklet](#). "This content is taken from the [June 11, 2024 Center for Connected Health Care Policy Newsletter](#)."

Regional News

Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center (NRTRC) Advisory Board Update

Dr. Matt McCullough Joins the NRTRC Advisory Board

We're thrilled to welcome Matt McCullough, PhD, Rural Hospital Improvement Director for the Utah Hospital Association, as our new advisory board member. Matt, former Principal Investigator for the NRTRC joins Sarah Woosley, MD, Medical Director at the Association for Utah Community Health, as our Utah representatives.

NRTRC Seeks Advisory Board Member from Alaska

NRTRC is seeking an Advisory Board Member from Alaska! As we navigate the evolving landscape of telehealth in the northwest, we're seeking a dedicated professional to join our advisory board. We're looking for the following qualifications:

- Passion for advancing healthcare access and equity
- Experience in improving patient outcomes in underserved regions
- Experience with telehealth strategy development and implementation

Please use our [contact form](#) and select "Outreach Request" to express your interest or nominate a candidate.

Idaho's Broadband Challenge Call to Action

The Idaho Office of Broadband (IOB) announced that the State's

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) [Challenge Process](#) is open for two weeks starting June 3. The Challenge Process helps confirm that broadband connections are as widespread and strong as reported by providers. This is especially important in rural areas that need telehealth service.

[Link Up Idaho](#) has been updated with resources and tools to help stakeholders navigate the state's Challenge Process. The IOB encourages everyone to explore the [BEAD Broadband Map](#) and review the [User Guide](#). The [Timeline](#) includes scheduled map/portal demonstrations and open office hours.

For comments or questions, email broadband@commerce.idaho.gov.



Events to Bookmark in 2024

June

NCTRC Webinar - Bridging the Gap: Innovations in Telebehavioral Health

Access: Join us for an engaging webinar as we explore innovative strategies to enhance access to telebehavioral health services. In an era where mental health support is more crucial than ever, this session will delve into creative solutions in the southwest that bridge the gap between individuals and the care they need. From leveraging technology to community partnerships, discover how to revolutionize telebehavioral health delivery and ensure equitable access for all. Virtual prescribing and out-of-state provider concerns will also be addressed. June 12, 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

UETN Tech Summit: Join the Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN) as our panelists explore various topics related to IT and higher education, telehealth, and K-12 education. June 19 – June 20

July

FORHP Region E Partnership Meeting: In partnership with the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP), The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) is thrilled to kick off this year's lineup of FORHP Regional Partnership Meetings! These meetings are an opportunity to focus on regional rural health needs and network with other State Offices in your region (region E includes Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon,

South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming). July 9 – July 11

Telehealth Implementation Bootcamp: The University of Mississippi Medical Center's HRSA Telehealth Center of Excellence Initiative is excited to host the first Telehealth Implementation Bootcamp in New Orleans, LA! Open to healthcare groups developing new programs or interested in expanding existing programs, this Bootcamp offers targeted support and resources such as needs assessment, evaluation, quality improvement, and more.

Starting with the 1.5-day, in-person Bootcamp, we'll build a cohort that will be committed to participating in an ongoing program for support, technical assistance, and education (virtual) through the summer of 2025. The goal is for participating organizations to make steps toward telehealth implementation or for them to enhance/optimize their current telehealth initiatives over this timeframe. July 18 – July 19

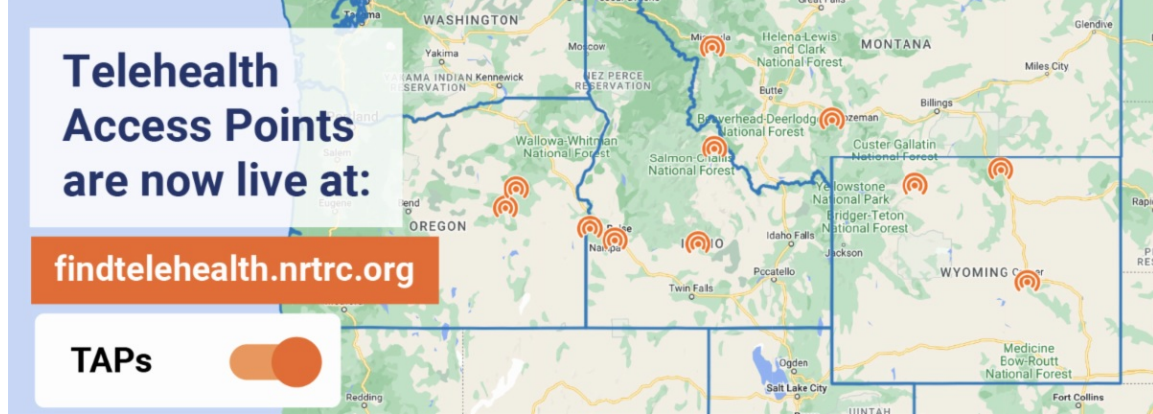
Digital Health Workshop (In-person Event): At this workshop, you'll have the opportunity to learn how to integrate digital health modalities to support important priorities such as health related social needs, care management, and specialty care access, for example. Our expert speakers will share their knowledge and insights, providing valuable information on topics such as clinical best practices, operational roles, sustainability, and regulatory policy. July 24, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Telehealth T-Time: Are you passionate about telehealth, virtual care, and digital health? Do you support telehealth services from a clinical, operational, or technical perspective? Do you deliver care from a distance? Have you been looking for the opportunity to connect and network with your peers? Then join us for one, two, or three sessions presented by your fellow telehealth enthusiast peers. June 20 and July 18, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

2023 NRTRC Telehealth Survey Results Released

The [2023 NRTRC Telehealth Survey results are here!](#) Click to see the latest telehealth trends, including areas of growth, patient and provider needs, and the opportunities and barriers that exist in the northwest region.

Do You Provide Health Care or Services via Telehealth?



NRTRC's [Find Telehealth](https://findtelehealth.nrtrc.org) is available to help patients and providers find in-person and telehealth care along with locations to have telehealth visits. TAPs can be viewed by turning on the TAPs button on the map.

[Click Here to Update Information on Your Practice](#)
[Click Here to Add a TAP](#)



Northwest Regional State Telehealth Website Links

- [Alaska Collaborative for Telehealth and Telemedicine](#)
- [Idaho Department of Health and Welfare](#)
- [Montana Telehealth Alliance](#)
- [Utah Telehealth Network](#)
- [Washington State Telehealth Collaborative](#)
- [Washington State Department of Health](#)
- [Wyoming Telehealth Network](#)



Telehealth Resources

- [Telehealth Tools and Resources](#): Find up-to-date telehealth tools & resources.
- [Professional Development](#): Visit NRTRC's catalog of online telehealth training courses.
- The Telehealth Resource Centers have gathered resources specific to [Federally Qualified Health Centers](#).
- [Updated legislation and regulations](#): Keep up with regulations and proposed legislation for the states of the Northwest Region.
- [Research](#): current research opportunities, research articles, and survey results.

Grant Funding Opportunities

Refer to the [funding page](#) on the NRTRC website for updated grant opportunities.



Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center

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