

Summer School for School Nurses



For 19 years Kansas school nurses have been meeting each summer to discuss common issues related to children's health and chronic health management, and this summer proved to be no exception. The two-day, statewide conference this July was packed with activities critical to the advancement of school nurse education. Not only were there nationally-known keynote speakers, but there were sessions ranging from CPR Certification and New School Nurse Orientation to school immunizations and disease surveillance. The annual conference is the primary source of continuing education for school nurses, and a valuable resource for pediatric nurses working in public health and nurses working in private physician practices as well.

Gretchen Patch, KU's Project Manager for Clinical Services, was in attendance at this year's conference due to the long-standing partnership with Kansas' school nurses enjoyed by KU's Center for Telemedicine. "This conference is a great opportunity to more clearly identify new opportunities for telemedicine services to assist school nurses," said Ms. Patch. "These nurses are unique in that they are healthcare providers working daily in the world of childhood education. Their love of children has placed them on the front line in dealing with our children on multiple levels. They are amazing, and I'm glad our telemedicine services can help them make a difference."

Both federal and state funding sources have enabled KU to offer resources such as the TeleKidcare clinical consultation program and pediatric telepsych services in schools throughout Kansas.

KU Offers Telemental Health Program

It was in the mid-1990's that KU's Center for Telemedicine first announced the availability of psychiatric clinical services throughout the state of Kansas. Having gained considerable experience, we now provide one of the most active telemental health programs in the US, including:



Child Psychiatry - Offered in schools, community mental health centers, an urban daycare center, a rural foster care program, and other rural sites.

Child Psychology - Offered in urban and rural schools, rural Area Health Education Centers, and other rural sites.

Child Developmental Disability / Autism Evaluation - Offered in a range of urban and rural sites.

Adult Psychiatry - Offered primarily in rural sites.

Adult Psychology - Offered primarily in rural sites.

Telemental services have focused primarily on direct patient care, both for evaluation and treatment of mental health concerns. The Telemedicine Center is also working on pilot programs involving interdisciplinary telemedicine evaluation for youth depression, ADHD, and autism.

Our telemedicine providers and pediatric educators have also offered educational sessions and consultations with sites regarding a wide range of mental health topics. They would be happy to discuss with you the specific services that might be available at your site.

If you have any questions or are interested in scheduling a telemental health consultation, contact our telemedicine scheduling coordinator at (913) 588-2226.

TeacherTech Extern Learns About Telemedicine



Although it is nearly Back-To-School time, the TeacherTech "extern" in KU's Telemedicine Center is still hard at work as she nears completion of a new TeleHelp project. Rose Lawler, a high school teacher in the Shawnee Mission School District, is participating in a two-year-old program called *UpLink* that is designed to bring to Kansas City's schools real-world knowledge that can be applied in areas such as math and science.

The Kauffman Foundation provided a three-year grant to YouthFriends, a nationally recognized school-based mentoring organization, for the development of *Uplink*. The goal is to increase math, science and technology comprehension through a better understanding of real-world application. To accomplish this goal, *Uplink* places students in internships, business mentors in classrooms and teachers into paid summer jobs related to their educational field.

For Rose Lawler and KUCTT, UpLink provided the perfect opportunity for them to focus on a short-term project that has immediate value, and combine it with the learning of new skills that can be applied in the classroom beginning this fall. Normally a teacher of English and Debate at Shawnee Mission North High School, Rose is filling the position this summer of Pediatric Project Coordinator for Telehealth. Her experience as a teacher has been useful in tailoring content for training materials that will become part of the TeleHelp Project and Connected Kansas Kids (CKK) program, two initiatives that utilize technology to identify and treat youth depression. She has also assisted in revising CKK Internet web site content.

Right now, Rose is completing the writing, casting and filming of a video for use by teachers to assist in identifying the signs of childhood depression in their students. Because of her background, she has been able to ensure the production is appropriately written and targeted to the intended audience of teachers.

The other direct beneficiary of this TeachTech externship will be Shawnee Mission North High School. Ms. Lawler already has plans to use her new technology expertise upon returning to school later this month. She plans a combined educational effort with her debate students and those in the school's broadcast production classes, passing on her knowledge of real-world technology by assisting the students in the production of a training video of their own.

The video materials mentioned in this article (How teachers can detect youth depression) will be available this fall. If you would like to acquire these materials for use in your school, contact the TeleHelp senior coordinator, Thao Bui, at tbui2@kumc.edu or (913) 588-2226.

Research



One of the vital functions of the Telemedicine Center is to conduct research in new methods of healthcare delivery, often measuring the effectiveness of electronic forms of delivery versus other, more "traditional" forms of delivery.

While our web site (www2.kumc.edu/telemedicine/2008Research/index.html) has proven to be an excellent location for research on a variety of aspects of health technology, we continue working with publishers to allow the presentation of the full text of articles relative to our latest research.

Recently published in the *Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare* (2008; 14: 211-214), for example, is a paper entitled: *A comparison of telehealth and face-to-face presentation for school professionals supporting students with chronic illness*, based on recent research conducted by Ryan Spaulding, Director of the Center for Telemedicine and Telehealth, KU Medical Center, Kathy Davis, from the Department of Pediatrics, KU Medical Center, and James Patterson from the Department of Communication Studies, Miami University, Oxford, OH.

The purpose of their research was to compare the effectiveness of videoconferencing versus face-to-face communication by studying school personnel who had received educational material about chronic illnesses in children through one of the two methods. The outcome of the study directly relates to the topic of satisfaction with distance learning by means of video presentation.

In time, this research will be available on our web site. If you are considering the development of a distance education program or have another immediate need for a

copy of the above study, feel free to contact KUCTT at (913) 588-2226 or telemedicine@kumc.edu.

HIT ACRONYMS



Health Information Technology

Work conducted here at KU's Telemedicine Center includes the study and program development of health care communication in all its many forms. Whether the data is ultimately transformed into audio or video communications or it is collected and organized into an information resource, the Telemedicine Center is KU's resource for expertise in the latest data management techniques utilized in health care today.

With the ever-increasing amount of health-related information being generated, you may find it helpful to check from time to time on what is happening with the major federal health IT initiatives. Most such initiatives are coordinated by the US Department of Health and Human Services and are linked to the following web site: <http://www.hhs.gov/healthit>.

When reviewing information prepared by federal agencies, it is helpful to be aware of the multiple acronyms used by each agency. For your reference, here is a partial list of federal IT acronyms, provided courtesy of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC):

AHIC - American Health Information Community
AHIC CPS - AHIC Confidentiality, Privacy & Security Workgroup
AHIMA - American Health Information Management Association
AHRQ - Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
AHLTA - Armed Forces Health Logitudinal Technology Application
ASPE - Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
ASPR - HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
BHIE - Bidirectional Health Information Exchange
BISTI - Biomedical Computation Science and Technology Grants
CaBIG - The Cancer Biomedical Informatics Grid
CaGrid - Infrastructure that supports CaBIG
CAH - Critical Access Hospitals
CARE - Continuity Assessment Record & Evaluation
CCHIT - Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology
CCHT - National Care Coordination Home Telehealth Program
CDC - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDS - Clinical Decision Support
CHDR - Clinical Data Repository/Health Data Repository
CHI - Consolidated Health Informatics initiative
CLIA - Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments
CMS - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
CPHP - The Centers for Public Health Preparedness
CPOE - Computerized Physician Order Entry
CPRS - Clinical Patient Record System/ Computerized Patient Record System
CRS - Computerized Registration System
CTSA - Clinical and Translational Science Awards
CVE - Chartered Value Exchange

Additional federal HIT acronyms will be provided in future issues of *TeleNews*. For a complete list, contact Gordon Alloway at the KU Telemedicine Center, galloway@kumc.edu or 913-588-2257.

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