



Best Practices: The North Country Initiative - Telehealth Learning Collaborative

- **Spotlight Initiative:** A Telehealth Learning Collaborative was established in July of 2014 and meets monthly with participants from NYS Department of Health (DOH), Office of Mental Health (OMH), the Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization (FDRHPO), the Finger Lakes Health Center, the Northeast Telehealth Resource Center (NETRC), Western NY Rural AHEC, the Community Health Care Association of NYS (CHCANY), St. Joseph's Hospital, Upstate Medical, and the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC). As the leader, the North Country Healthcare Providers is facilitating the sharing of best practices among telehealth users across NYS and enhancing the communication of successes and barriers to success to representatives from NYS.
- **Impact:** The Telemedicine Learning Collaborative has two main focuses:
 - Facilitate the sharing of best practices among Telehealth users across NYS
 - Communicate successes and barriers to success to representatives from NYSThis collaborative is in its infancy stages, yet has made great strides in a short time. Most importantly, the sharing of tools, templates and resources has saved partners considerable time and efforts, thus reducing duplicative work. The sharing of ideas and best practices has led to advancements in telehealth adoption and utilization.
- **Next Steps:** The group will continue to meet on a monthly basis, extending its outreach to any other additional, interested partners. The collaborative will seek ways to continue advocacy for, and implement telehealth reimbursement.
- **PPS Contact:** Tracy Leonard – Workforce Strategies and Care Coordination Lead for NCI: tleonard@fdrhpo.org
- **Attachments:**
 - Fort Drum regional health planning organization is awarded contract to implement telemedicine scheduling system. Please click the following [link](#) to be directed to this article.
 - Telehealth bill signed, bringing distance care to many. Please click the following [link](#) to be directed to this article.

[03302015_BP_NCI_-_Telehealth.pdf](#)



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