



## CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL RECOGNITION: FY2015 INNOVATION IN CARE COORDINATION

### Athol Hospital

#### Athol, Massachusetts

In response to the high levels of mental health needs and the challenge of limited resources [Athol Hospital](#) in Athol, Massachusetts partnered with the Athol-Royalston Regional School District (ARRSD), the Northeast Telehealth Resource Center (NETRC) and Clinical & Support Options (CSO) to develop a collaborative school-based telepsychiatry model focused on bridging care gaps for children and families residing in the Athol Hospital and ARRSD service area.



*Athol Hospital leaders and community stakeholders accept CAH Recognition Certificate.*

### Positive Steps to Turnaround

- Increase in higher quality age-appropriate psychiatric consultations and improved medication management
- Decreased tardiness, absenteeism and drop-out rates, and increased GPAs and school engagement in students
- Improved mental health services access, timeliness of care, decreased wait times, decreased use of urgent and emergency care, fewer crisis outcomes, reduction in Medicaid expenditures

### Top Accomplishments

The Athol School-Based Telepsychiatry program is an excellent example of how innovative approaches can effectively stretch limited resources across rural communities to increase access and improve outcomes. In accepting the award, Rebecca Bialecki, Vice President of Community Health at Heywood Healthcare, Athol Hospital's parent organization, stated:

*"The development of the telehealth network has truly strengthened the partnership between our schools and our community mental health*



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*provider. The best outcome, however, is the benefit to our children and families – offering improved access to child psychiatric services.”*