



University of Nevada School of Medicine
PROJECTECHO
CONNECTING NEVADA'S COMMUNITIES TO SPECIALTY CARE



Project ECHO Nevada: A Flex Program Partnership That Makes Sense

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ECHO vs. Telemedicine

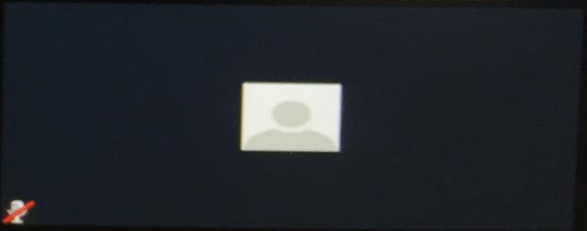
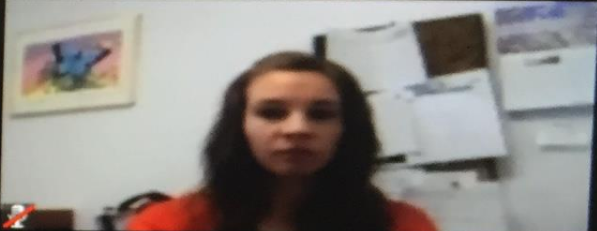
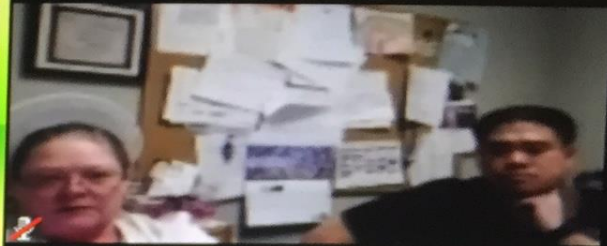


Traditional
Telemedicine



Specialist Manages Patient Remotely





Project ECHO Nevada Background

- Planning began in late 2010
- Rural road trips/site visits/needs assessment during July and August 2011
- First clinic launched April 2012 – Diabetes ECHO
- Received \$500,000 appropriation from the 2015 legislature
- Currently, 12 active ECHO clinics + 3 inactive

Project ECHO Nevada Clinics for Primary Care Providers

- Sports Medicine*
- Gastroenterology
- Public Health
- Behavioral Health in Primary Care*
- Pain Management*
- Diabetes/General Endocrine*
- Antibiotic Stewardship
- Rheumatology
- Hepatitis C
- Geriatrics*

*behavioral health specialist(s) on interdisciplinary team

Project ECHO Nevada Clinics for Behavioral Health Providers

- Mental Health Professional Development Group (Junior Clinicians)
- Mental Health Professional Development Group (Experienced Clinicians)
- Psychology Internship Supervision Group
- Marriage and Family Therapist Internship Supervision Group

What Does ECHO Have to do with Flex?

- Works with a broad range of rural providers, including all 13 Critical Access Hospitals in Nevada
- ECHO and Flex Program goals are aligned
 - Improved population health
 - Improved recruitment and retention of health workforce
 - Both programs are guided by ongoing health care needs assessments and evaluation
 - Well-aligned with transition to value-based models
- Technology increases efficiency for providers

Recruitment and Retention

Physician and Primary Care Workforce – 2014 Number per 100,000 Population

Profession	Rural & Frontier	Urban	Nevada
Allopathic Physicians (MD)	72.8	183.4	172.3
Adv Practitioners of Nursing (APN)	19.7	33.2	31.9
Osteopathic Physicians (DO)	15.8	21.6	21.0
Physician Assistants (PA)	14.1	20.9	20.2
Primary Care Physicians (MD & DO)	49.6	90.4	86.3

Source: Nevada Rural and Frontier Health Data Book, 7th Edition. University of Nevada School of Medicine (2015).

Impact and Outcomes of Project ECHO Nevada

- Build the capacity of rural and frontier primary care workforce
- Reduce professional isolation and improve primary care recruitment and retention
- FREE CME and nursing CEU credits for rural physicians, P.A.s, nurses, and pharmacists
- Improve reimbursement to participating rural hospitals, clinics, and providers

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