



## PATHS (Pediatric Access to Telemental Health Services)

increases capacity for primary care providers in Alabama's rural communities to diagnose, treat and manage mild to moderate behavioral health conditions in children and adolescents – and helps providers be better equipped to address pediatric mental health concerns.

### GOALS

- Increase access to pediatric mental health providers in rural communities of Alabama through telemental health services
- Assist primary care providers to care for patients with behavioral health needs by providing behavioral health training and case review to improve early identification, diagnosis, and treatment of patients with behavioral health disorders
- Offer behavioral health services through telemental health for those patients who need specialist intervention

### BENEFITS FOR PEDIATRICIANS (What PATHS will provide)

**PATHS** brings behavioral health case review and treatment services to your practice – via telemental health services – provided by a Children's of Alabama team of licensed behavioral health professionals and an infant/early childhood mental health consultant. Our mental health team will provide the following services:

- Case review by phone between the primary care team and **PATHS** mental health team
- Behavioral health education and case review, utilizing the Project ECHO model
- Behavioral health treatment for patients who need a behavioral health professional via telemental health
- Case coordination services provided by **PATHS** mental health team, a case coordinator from the Alabama Department of Public Health, or the Alabama Coordinated Health Networks (ACHNs)
- Referrals to other mental health professionals closer to the patient, when indicated
- Technical training and support to facilitate telemental health visits

### EXPECTATIONS FOR PEDIATRICIANS

Pediatricians who agree to participate in **PATHS** will be expected to:

- Initiate behavioral health screenings for well-child visits in your practice (utilizing an AAP recognized instrument) and report results of those screenings to **PATHS**
- Participate in one-hour Project ECHO sessions held every other week during lunch for a limited time
- Complete evaluation forms following each Project ECHO session, giving **PATHS** valuable feedback regarding our educational services
- Participate in program evaluation activities with UAB Evaluation Team members

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROJECT ECHO SERIES

- Beginning Fall 2022
- Beginning Spring 2023

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