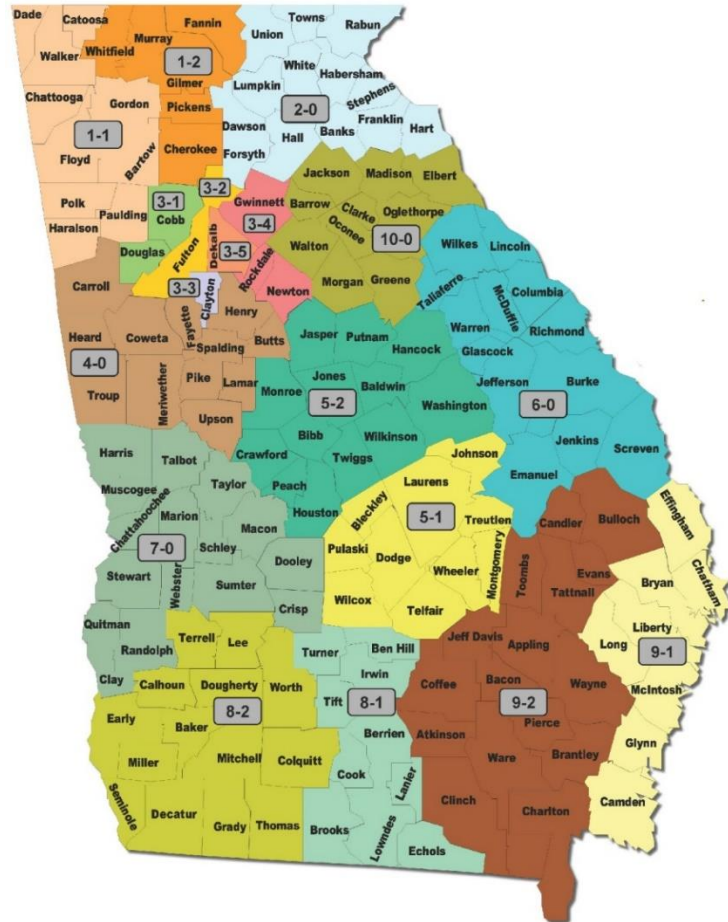


Capacity Building through Telemedicine/ECHO

Expanding Access to Care in Rural & Urban Settings

Data Focused Decisions and Technology Innovations / Suleima Salgado, MBA / Sept. 5, 2019

Georgia Department of Public Health



- 159 County Health Departments
- 159 County Boards of Health
- 18 Public Health Districts
- 18 District Health Directors
- 1 Commissioner
- 1 Board of Public Health

Telehealth vs. Telemedicine

Telehealth - use of **electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support long-distance clinical health care**, patient and professional health-related education, public health and health administration.

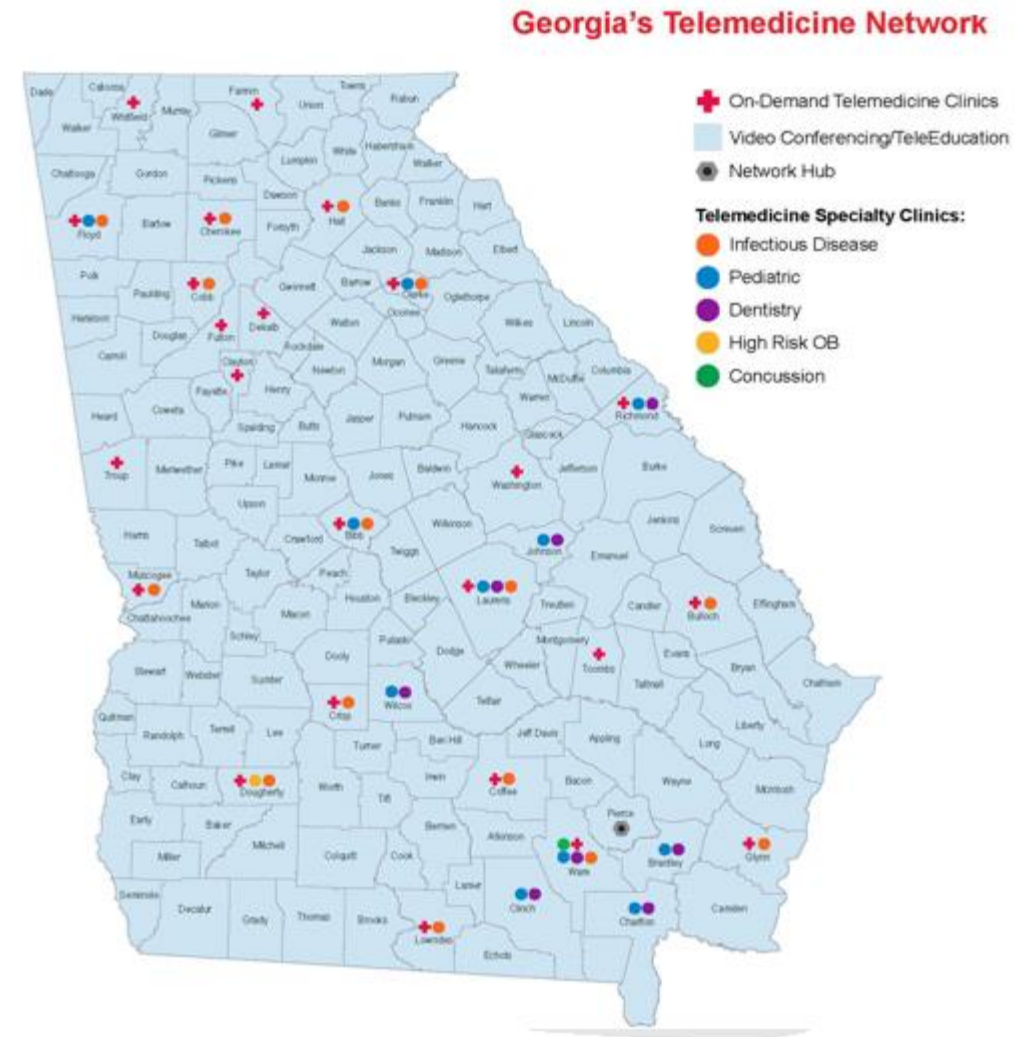
- Technologies include videoconferencing on a secure, private network with store-and-forward imaging, streaming media and wireless communications

Telemedicine – the use of **medical information exchanged from one site to another** via electronic communications to improve a patient's clinical health status.

- Telemedicine includes a growing variety of applications and services using two-way video, email, smart phones, wireless tools and other forms of telecommunications technology
- May involve medical scopes, x-rays, ultrasound or other medical applications

Georgia's "Tele" Network

- Extensive telehealth network that provides expertise statewide through video
- Network recognized as one of the most robust and comprehensive public health telemedicine networks in the nation and a best-practices model of care
- Network connects **all 159 county health departments** and **specialty clinics**
- Allows connection to partners and providers ANYWHERE (patients at home, hospitals, universities, private practice offices, etc.)



Georgia's "Tele" Network

- Patients come to county health centers for telehealth visits
- **Nurses act as the hands, eyes and ears for physicians on the other end of the screen**
- DPH has approximately **40 physicians** in its network, with **access to 400 more**
- Provides services, such as dentistry, that the state previously lacked the resources to support



Georgia's "Tele" Network

- GA legislators appropriated \$2.3M to DPH, specifically for telemedicine infrastructure.
- The department utilizes a hub-and-spoke model for its network, and it **installed dedicated circuits throughout the state to ensure that clinics had the bandwidth necessary** to support telehealth solutions.
- Programmatic funding also comes from federal, state, county, and grant funds to expand clinics, train staff, and technical support.
- Partnership with other state agencies (Rural Health, Medicaid, DBHDD), universities, local hospitals, other telehealth networks, and private sector are integral and sustained through collaborative agreements and MOUs.



“Tele” Partners

Augusta University
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta
Community Service Boards
Concussion Institute at Gwinnett
Medical Center
Coweta County Fire Rescue
Emory University
Global Partnership for Telehealth
Gwinnett Medical Center

Meadows Health Community
Morehouse School of Medicine
State Agencies (Composite Medical
Board, DCH, DBHDD)
Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare
University of Florida (Jacksonville)
University of Georgia (Health
Sciences)
Women’s Telehealth

Number of partners constantly changes based on community needs/demands

Collaboration Without Boundaries

Cost Savings Example

- Statewide Conference (two-day training)
- Two-day training, partner with a state university and training center, as well as local AHEC
- Providers funded to present through grant
- Virtual registration/ evaluation
- Power Point slides provided virtually and in advance

Return On Investment

- No registration cost for participants since virtual (telehealth)
- Over 500 public health nurses and physicians tuned in to watch
- Seven hours of CEU's eligible for registered participants
- 158 of the 159 counties participated
- **Cost savings:** if we consider NOT having to pay for travel, food and lodging for each person who received training and average it at \$500/person, this is a cost savings of **\$250,000.00**

Telemedicine

Originating Site



Telemedicine Cart



Distant Site

Originating Site - where a patient is located

Telemedicine Cart - interactive and secure telecommunications system

Distant Site - where physician or practitioner is located

DPH “Tele” Specialty Services

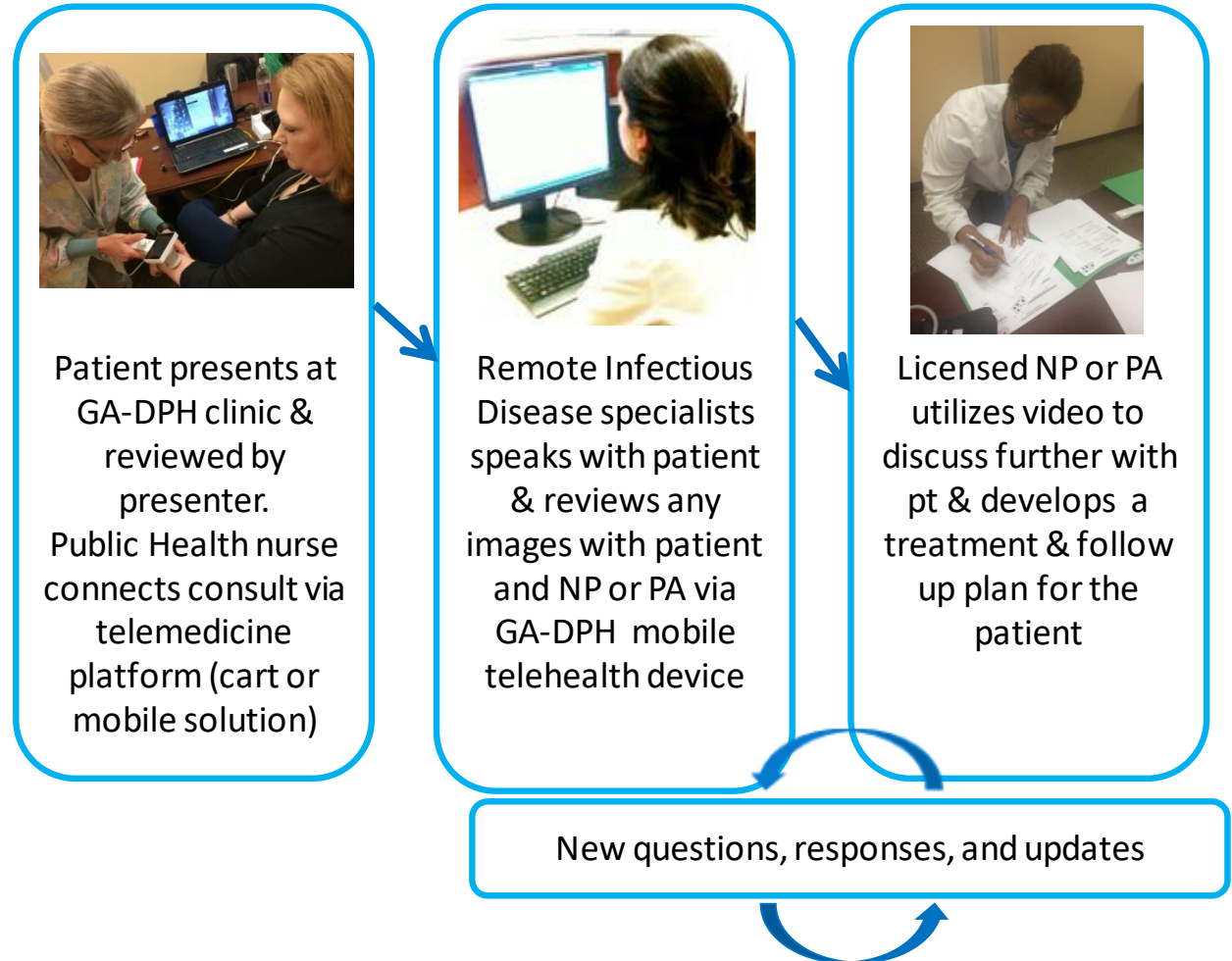
- **Asthma/Allergy** - pediatric
- **Audiology** - pediatric
- **Behavioral Health counseling** - pediatric school based
- **Community Paramedicine (Ambulatory)**
- **Concussion** – school based
- **Dental Services** - school based
- **Dermatology** - adult and pediatric
- **Diabetes Classes** - adult and pediatric
- **ECHO (Infectious Diseases)**
- **Emergency Preparedness / Disaster Response**
- **Endocrinology** - pediatric
- **Genetics/Developmental** - pediatric
- **Infectious Disease** - adult and pediatric
- **Interpreter Services**
- **Lactation Support/WIC**
- **Maternal Fetal Medicine (High Risk)** - adult
- **Mental Health (HIV)** – adult
- **Nephrology** - pediatric
- **Neurosurgery** - pediatric
- **Nutrition/WIC** - adult and pediatric
- **Opioid Provider Education & Training**
- **Orthopedic**
- **PrEP- fall 2019**
- **Sickle Cell** - adult & pediatric
- **Tele-therapy** for early intervention (BCW)-pediatric
- **VDOT- Tuberculosis**

TeleHIV

Providing help to patients living with HIV who may have health barriers to overcome in receiving treatment

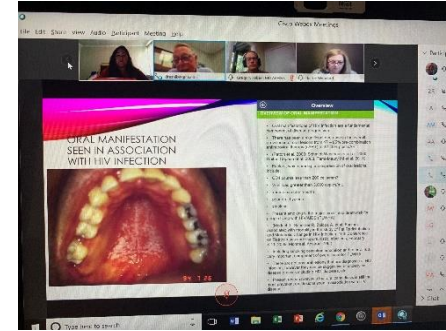
Target: Urban and Rural settings

Barriers: transportation, stigma, work schedules, shortage of providers & distance to provider, long waits for appointments, language/cultural barriers, etc.

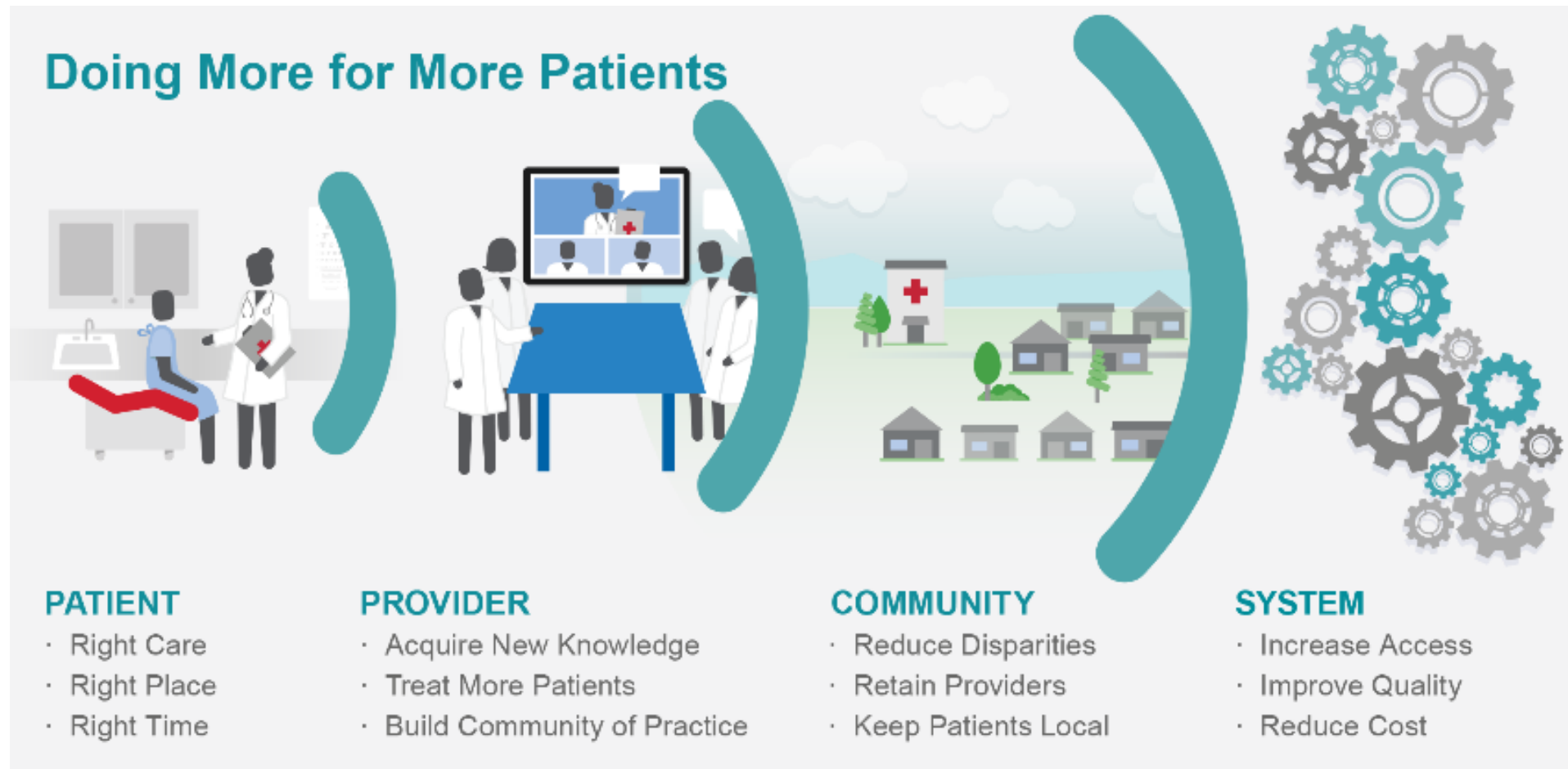


DPH Infectious Disease ECHO

- Project ECHO is a lifelong learning and guided practice model that revolutionizes **medical education & exponentially increases workforce capacity** to provide best-practice specialty care and reduce health disparities.
- The heart of the ECHO model™ is its hub-and-spoke knowledge-sharing networks, led by expert teams who use multi-point videoconferencing to conduct virtual education with community providers.
- In this way, primary care doctors, nurses, & other clinicians learn to provide excellent specialty care to patients in their own communities.



Project ECHO



https://echo.unm.edu/doc/ECHO_One-Pager_11.20.18.pdf

Invitation for ECHO



GA DPH Project ECHO Registration Form

gadph.echo@gmail.com



Infectious Diseases ECHO Presentation Form

Date of Presentation ___/___/___

Patient ECHO ID _____

New ECHO Case Follow-up ECHO

Presenter Name _____
Facility Name _____
Phone _____ Fax _____
E-mail _____

Reason for Case Presentation / Topics of Discussion:

Ami Gandhi - Hepatitis A/B issues in GA	June 20, 2019
Harris/Felzien – Pregnancy & the newborn	July 18, 2019
Dr. Reznik – HIV and oral health	Aug. 15, 2019
Kimberly Brown – Update STD protocol	Sept. 19, 2019
Dr. Felzien - Update on HIV guidelines	Oct. 17, 2019
Dr. Chan – update on GA-AETC	Nov. 21, 2019
Dr. Heckman – Mental Health & HIV	Dec. 19, 2019

Questions

For more information, please contact:

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