



Behavioral Treatment for Autism in Community Settings Using a Telehealth Network

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Purpose of the Research

The current project represents an investment in the statewide infrastructure needed to more effectively serve children with autism and their families. This study is designed to test improved access to appropriate behavioral services for young children (ages 1 to 6 years) with autism spectrum disorders. The major research goal is to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of conducting behavioral treatment for autism through a telehealth network. Thus providing greater local access to behavioral procedures with expert consultation from a remote site increasing families' opportunities to obtain behavioral services in a cost-effective and timely manner, which is an urgent public health need in rural states that face a scarcity of trained behavioral specialists.

Study Procedures

To reach underserved areas of a rural state, behavioral specialists will "coach" staff and parents at regional health centers across the state to help them assess and treat the disruptive behaviors displayed by young children with autism. Functional analysis and functional communication training, conducted through telehealth coaching, will be used to test the effectiveness in reducing disruptive behavior and increasing positive social behaviors in young children with autism spectrum disorders.