Vision

Through the use of telepsychiatry services the Core Service Agency aims to:

▪ Expand access to quality mental health services for the residents of Cecil County.
▪ Provide accelerated access to mental health services by reducing wait times for a psychiatry appointment.
▪ Help prevent future hospitalization by coordinating timely access to psychiatric services following discharge from an acute setting.

Patients may utilize telepsychiatry until they are able to get an appointment with a local psychiatrist or they may continue to use telepsychiatry for their psychiatric treatment needs.

Telepsychiatry is not a crisis service.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a psychiatric emergency:

report to the nearest Emergency Department,
call 9-1-1 or
Call the Eastern Shore Crisis Response hotline at 1-888-407-8018

The Cecil County Health Department complies with all applicable State and Federal laws, regulations and policies on anti-discrimination with regard to the delivery of services, in employment, or in purchase of goods and services. It also complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act to ensure the qualified individuals with disabilities are given an opportunity to participate in and benefit from all services and programs.
What is Telepsychiatry?

The Telepsychiatry Program uses video conferencing equipment to link Cecil County residents with a psychiatrist from Sheppard Pratt Health Systems.

This site utilizes an encrypted secure internet connection and all applicable HIPAA guidelines for patient confidentiality.

The session takes place in a private room at the Cecil County Health Department where Core Service Agency staff are available, if needed, for the duration of the appointment.

Telepsychiatry is available for medication consultations or on-going medication management.

Who can use Telepsychiatry?

Cecil County residents, who are in need of diagnosis, treatment or psychopharmacological management of a mental health condition may be candidates for the telepsychiatry program.

Currently accepting children (5-17) and adults (18+). Children and adolescents must be accompanied by a legal guardian.

All patients need to be in active treatment with a licensed therapist.

Why choose Telepsychiatry?

The Benefits of Telepsychiatry include:
- increased access to mental health care
- convenience of location
- improved quality of life
- expanded consumer choice
- strict patient confidentiality.

What is the cost?

Telepsychiatry is a Medicaid reimbursed service and no co-pay is required. The patient is responsible for the cost of prescribed medication.

Contact the CSA about the availability of appointments for uninsured patients.

How do I make a referral?

Referrals are currently accepted from physicians, nurses, social workers, licensed therapists and counselors.

Complete the telepsychiatry referral form and send it to the Core Service Agency along with:
- Supporting documentation, which includes, but is not limited to: psychosocial summary, medication records, relevant lab results, intake assessments and/or most recent treatment note.

Once the complete referral is received, a Core Service Agency representative will contact the individual to schedule the appointment.

When are Appointments available?

Appointments are currently offered on:
- Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 pm
- Fridays from 8:30-10:30 am

Intake appointments are 30-60 minutes. Follow up appointments are 15-30 minutes.

If medication is prescribed, the prescription will be faxed to the pharmacy indicated on the referral form.