

MEDIA ADVISORY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ILLINOIS TELEHEALTH INITIATIVE LAUNCH AT MATTER FEBRUARY 23, 2015

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February 20, 2015- Chicago, IL—Before the Adoption of the Affordable Care Act in 2010, Dr. C. Everett Koop, former Surgeon General of the United States outlined, “By 2025, there is a projected physician shortage of 130,000.” Due to budget cuts and aging populations, among other factors, the United States is on the brink of a healthcare crisis, a crisis that telehealth applications can aide.

With the support of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC), Partnership for a Connected Illinois is pleased to announce the launch of the Illinois Telehealth Initiative. The Illinois Telehealth Initiative will improve the quality of healthcare, expand the geographic availability of access to healthcare, and reduce healthcare costs. The effort will launch Monday, February 23rd at 10:00 a.m. at MATTER, 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 1230.

MCHC recently launched a targeted telehealth effort. “Each year, hospitals across this region treat an increasing number of patients in need of psychiatric evaluation, and most institutions, due to budgetary restrictions or location, do not have 24/7 access to psychiatric support,” said Michael Wahl, MD, Medical Director, MCHC. “For institutions in such a situation, MCHC is proud to offer the Midwest Telepsychiatry Consortium, a groundbreaking solution to help providers increase access to psychiatric care, enhance the quality and efficiency of ED treatment regimens, and significantly reduce boarding times for behavioral health patients in distress.”

Many such targeted efforts around telehealth are happening throughout Illinois. Several telehealth companies housed at MATTER will be available at the announcement:

RegroupTherapy – David Cohn and Mary McGinnis
Prana Diabetes – Sindhu Rajan
Real Dietitian – Sidonia Rose Swarm
TelehealthRobotics – Sarah Doherty and Dr. Jeff Soble
Double Helix Group – Les Hedman and Lizzie Nolan

Telehealth expert Nina Antoniotti and PCI’s telehealth leader Nancy Kaszak will outline how we can leverage the telehealth assets and opportunities here in Illinois. Representatives of partners in the Illinois Medical District will highlight strengths of their unique partnership.

PCI is establishing a steering committee to identify telehealth initiatives, pave the way to the advancement of telehealth in the state, demonstrate the effectiveness of telehealth in improving access to and quality of healthcare while reducing costs, and develop plans for regional and statewide telehealth networks.

The Partnership for a Connected Illinois is seeking partners to join the steering committee and support the Illinois Telehealth Initiative through participation and fiscal contribution. Crowdfunding partner John Milligan of Concept Catapult is partnering with PCI on this front.

For more information on the Illinois Telehealth Initiative, contact Laura Lane Deputy Director of PCI at 773-600-2431.

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