



## FAST FACTS *Magellan Behavioral Care of Iowa, Inc.*

### Pediatric Psychiatric Services: Innovative Care For Those In Need

With 81 of Iowa's 99 counties identified as mental health shortage areas, an innovative response was needed to meet the mental health needs of Iowans across the state. Thanks to the Iowa Community Reinvestment program, today Iowa Plan enrollees ages zero to 21 in rural and underserved areas of the state have better access to services to address their mental health needs. The goal is to assist community physicians in treatment, allowing for follow-up care and ongoing care coordination.

Since 2003, more than 1,500 children and their families have been able to receive comprehensive child psychiatric services through a webcam network of 14 sites across the state.

#### Program Highlights

- Served over 700 children during 2007 and 2008 through more than 1,200 visits.
- Because the most frequent diagnosis for children served through Pediatric Psychiatric Services is Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Magellan partnered with Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC) to offer a program to assist primary care physicians, nurse practitioners and physicians' assistants in providing care to this population.

*"With a tight economy and high gas prices, many of these children would not otherwise receive care,"* according to Barbara Wilkerson, health services coordinator in northwest Iowa.

Chris Okiishi, M.D., child psychiatrist participating in the Iowa telehealth program said, *"What has been amazing to me is how quickly families adapt to the technology—within seconds, it's as if we were in the same room... and for me, it's very good to be able to be in Sioux City at 9:00, Ottumwa at 9:30, and Fort Dodge at 10:00, all without having to put any additional gas in my car."*

#### Key Program Components

- **Technology:** Webcams and computer technology allow for communication between remote locations – via the telehealth system.
- **Access:** Technology is accessible in 14 sites across the state.
- **Collaboration:** All stakeholders are able to come together to develop the best possible treatment plan for the child or adolescent.

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