

**Project Title:** Chronic Mental Health: Improving Outcomes through Ambulatory Care Coordination

**Principal Investigator:** Baker, Wende, M.Ed.

**Organization:** Southeast Nebraska Behavioral Health Information Network, Inc.

**Mechanism:** RFA: HS08-002: Ambulatory Safety and Quality Program: Improving Management of Individuals with Complex Healthcare Needs through Health IT (MCP)

**Grant Number:** R18 HS 017838

**Project Period:** 09/08 – 09/11

**AHRQ Funding Amount:** \$1,199,871

**Summary Status as of:** December 2008

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**Strategic Goal:** Develop and disseminate health IT evidence and evidence-based tools to support patient-centered care, the coordination of care across transitions in care settings, and the use of electronic exchange of health information to improve quality of care.

**Business Goal:** Implementation and Use

**Summary:** Mrs. Baker and her team launched their project in late September 2008. This project will demonstrate how health information exchange (HIE) between rural and urban providers in the behavioral health field can improve ambulatory patient care coordination and safety across treatment settings. Specifically, the project will examine provider barriers to technology acceptance in the behavioral health setting, behavioral health care technology acceptance and adoption, and the effects of HIE on clinical outcomes. A committee will select the hardware and software vendors during the first phase of the project, as the team designs the HIE. In the second phase of the project, the team will develop the HIE infrastructure and equip provider offices with new or updated technology and provide training to participating providers. In phase 3, the team will pilot the HIE in three provider facilities.

### Specific Aims

- Identify provider barriers to technology acceptance. **(Ongoing)**
- Implement an HIE among three major behavioral health provider facilities. **(Upcoming)**
- Collect data on how timely access to accurate information relates to quality of care. **(Upcoming)**

**2008 Activities:** The project team focused on instituting the organizational framework for completing the design phase of the behavioral health HIE during the first phase of work. Organizational developments included hiring a full-time director for the project and drafting a Request for Proposal for a technology consultant who will develop the system specifications and perform other tasks to develop the system.

**Preliminary Impact and Findings:** There are no findings at this time because they are still developing the intervention.

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### Selected Outputs

None Available.

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**Grantee's Most Recent Self-Reported Quarterly Status:** The project team is meeting 100 percent of milestones and is on time for all tasks.

**Milestones:** Progress is completely on track.

**Budget:** Spending is roughly on target.