

# NARBHA wins award for telemedicine program

DAILY SUN STAFF | Posted: Sunday, March 7, 2010 5:00 am | [\(0\) Comments](#)

The Flagstaff-based Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority recently won a national award for excellence in health information technology.

The award, which includes a \$10,000 grant was awarded for the development and expansion of the NARBHAnet telemedicine program, according to information from the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare.

The telemedicine program was created to respond to a shortage of psychiatric care in the 62,000 square mile area NARBHA serves. Since the program's beginning 13 years ago, the network has had more than 50,000 psychiatric sessions. The network has expanded from six to 51 sites and saves about \$240,000 a year in travel costs.

"NARBHA has created an innovative technology that allows for easy access in rural communities to mental health professionals," stated Linda Rosenberg, NCCBH chief executive officer. "NARBHAnet will result in better care for more individuals and families living with mental illness and addictions in Arizona."

NARBHA is a private, nonprofit managed-care organization responsible for planning, starting, funding and monitoring of behavioral health services in northern Arizona. NARBHA serves about 700,000 people.

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