



## ***News Release***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 18, 2009

**March 18, 2009: Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA)** is pleased to host Arizona Senators Robert "Bob" Burns (District 9) and Senator Steve Pierce (District 1) at the 1300 South Yale office this Friday March 20, 2009 at 1:30pm.

Senator Steve Pierce from Prescott served on the Yavapai County Republican Party (45 years) and the Arizona Republican Party, State Executive Committee for 7 years. Senator Burns, President of the Arizona State Senate, is a long-standing member of the Arizona Telemedicine Council. The senators will be visiting to tour NARBHA's nationally recognized rural telepsychiatry program.

In 1995, then Arizona State Representative Robert "Bob" Burns worked with legislative staffer John Lee to develop the Arizona Telemedicine Program (ATP) model. This program received an honorable mention in February 2009 as a Program of Significance by the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare "for their very GREEN, environmentally conscious, innovative telemedicine program."

- Dr. Sara Gibson (Telemedicine Medical Director), Susan Morley (Deputy Director), Nancy Rowe (Telemedicine Manager), and Elizabeth Krupinski, Ph.D. (U of A) published the results of a 10-year client satisfaction survey conducted with telemedicine patients in Apache County in the December 2008 issue of "Telemedicine and e-Health," the official publication of the American Telemedicine Association.
- American Sign Language Interpreter Sarah Benton will present on serving deaf clients via NARBHA's telemedicine network at the American Telemedicine Association (ATA) 2009 14th Annual Meeting in Las Vegas (April). Nancy Rowe, NARBHA Telemedicine Manager, will also present as part of a panel on purchasing technology for telehealth.

- Since 1996, more than 46,000 patient sessions have been scheduled on NARBHA's telemedicine network.

The visit to NARBHA comes one week after NARBHA hosted its second successful "Telepsychiatry Basics" seminar. Twenty-eight participants engaged in a one-day seminar offering clinical, technical, and administrative information on tele-mental health. NARBHA is planning another seminar in early fall 2009.

Nancy Rowe, NARBHA Telemedicine Manager, may be contacted at (928) 774-7128 or [nancy.rowe@narbha.org](mailto:nancy.rowe@narbha.org) or go to [www.rbha.net](http://www.rbha.net) for more information about NARBHA's Telemedicine Program. For other inquiries about NARBHA, contact Christina Mencuccini, Communication Manager, at (928)774-7128 or [christina.mencuccini@narbha.org](mailto:christina.mencuccini@narbha.org).

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