

Terry Scoggin, CEO

Why is the telepsychiatry program so important for Titus Regional Medical Center?

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The Titus Regional Medical Center has seen four hospitals close within 45 miles of us in the last 10 years. We know the impact of a hospital closure on a rural community. It's devastating. We also know the impact of behavioral health on rural communities as it's one of our largest issues that we're dealing with over the last 10 years is the increase in behavioral health patients coming to our emergency department and being boarded in our emergency department.

What has been the community response and impact?

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The rural telepsychiatry program in our emergency department has made a huge impact in our community. Over the last three months, we have seen over 60% decrease in hospitalizations of our behavioral health because of our partnership with HSC.

How large is the area that you serve?

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Titus Regional Medical Center is located on I-30 two hours east of Dallas. We're 60 miles from the Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana border. Titus Regional Medical Center serves Titus county of about 32,000 people. We also serve the four counties that surround Titus. Camp, Franklin, Red River and Morris, for a total of about 82,000 in our catchment area.

Why is this hospital so important to this area?

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Titus is the second largest rural independent hospital in the state of Texas, and the last remaining independent Hospital in northeast Texas.

What would you say to other health care CEO's and community leaders about this program?

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As for my counterparts in health care and other leaders in rural communities, I would encourage them to look at behavioral health. Behavioral Health is an issue. It is an epidemic in rural across Texas and United States, this program has made a huge difference, not only addressing the behavioral needs of our community, but also workplace violence and the stress of our employees, our team members, our doctors and everyone involved in northeast Texas.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

1:59

TRMC is so grateful to our representative and the state legislator, Cole Hefner, for leading the charge in 2023 with the legislature. We also like to thank TORCH, T.H.A, the state legislature of

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last year for trusting us with this pilot program to make a difference in rural communities affecting behavioral health.