

# International Conference on Psychiatric & Geriatrics Nursing and Stroke

November 19-20, 2018 | Paris, France

## Advancing Mental Health with Telepsychiatry & Psychiatric Mental Health nurse practitioners



**Charles Edwards**

Advance Telehealth Consulting Services, LLC and  
One TeleMed, LLC, USA

According to The State of Mental Health in America 2018, 18% (43 million) of adults in the country have a mental health condition (3). In addition, youth mental health is worsening and access to care is limited. In a five-year period, rates of severe youth depression have increased from 5.9% to 8.2%. Over 1.7 million youth with major depressive episodes did not receive treatment. To meet the need for mental health services, providers would have to treat six times as many people than providers in the states where there is a lower prevalence of mental illness and higher rates of access to care. These problems experienced in the U.S are also evident in mental health across the globe (4).

The mental health provider shortage has persisted throughout the United States for decades. The shortage of mental health providers has produced an influx of patients who are not receiving appropriate timely mental health care. Telepsychiatry is reducing this shortage and reshaping the way organization address mental health provider shortages in the United States and abroad. "Telepsychiatry is believed to provide better access and higher-quality care to patients who need psychiatric care and cost savings to providers of such care." (1).

Psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners (PMHNPs) are assuming increasing clinical responsibilities in the treatment of individuals with mental illness as the shortage of psychiatrists and their maldistribution continues to persist in the United States (2). PMHNPs are critical components to reducing the shortage of providers and increasing access to patients in need of mental health services.

### Biography

Charles Edwards is the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Advance Telehealth Consulting Solutions & One Telemed, LLC. Charles has over 22 years of behavioral health experience, where he managed outpatient and inpatient psychiatric programs across the country. During that time, Charles discovered the need for expanding mental health services to underserved communities and decided to step away from his corporate position to develop service model to assist with the mental health shortage.

[cedwards@onetelemed.com](mailto:cedwards@onetelemed.com)

### Notes: