

The Eldercare Clinician Program



MEETING THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF HOMEBOUND OLDER VERMONTERS

The Eldercare Clinician Program provides mental health services and supports to homebound older Vermonters. Barriers to office-based care can include significant mental health challenges such as depression and anxiety as well as transportation barriers, poor health, and/or lack of other social supports. Eldercare Clinicians receive referrals from, and collaborate closely with, Area Agencies on Aging.

Older Vermonters' higher risk for anxiety, depression, and suicide can be caused by social isolation, financial stress, and loss of loved ones. 13% of adults over the age of 65 report that they "rarely or never" receive social or emotional support, compared to 9% of the general population. Rates of suicide in Vermonters ages 60-84 are consistently higher than the national average, making the outreach clinical work done by Eldercare programs essential and life-saving.

REACH

- Over 3,300 services provided to over 270 older Vermonters statewide in the Eldercare Program.
- 47% of clients were seen in their home; 46% in the community, and 27% using telehealth.
- On average, Eldercare clients received 14 services.

In addition to clients in the Eldercare Program who are homebound, network agencies served over 1,400 Vermonters over the age of 65 across mental health and substance use disorder services. This is a growing sector of our service population with unique physical and social needs.



NKHS provides Eldercare Services to Vermonters who live in Orleans, Essex, and Caledonia counties. NKHS opened its doors in August of 1960 as Northeast Family Counseling Services. 2020 marks their sixtieth year of service.



Debbie Bashaw and Cheryl Huntley from Counseling Service of Addison County.