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Health Equity

02.29.24

Earlier this month, SAMHSA and the ONC announced the [Behavioral Health Information Technology \(BHIT\) Initiative](#), which will invest >\$20 million to advance health care IT use in behavioral health care settings. Lack of access to health care IT and the higher-level efficiencies and capabilities it offers, such as coordinated care planning and patient/provider access to records, inhibit mental health providers' from providing access to needed treatment modalities, including telehealth. The initiative will address these challenges by identifying and piloting a set of behavioral health-specific data elements with certain SAMHSA grantees.