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e-Mental Health in Central Massachusetts

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Introduction:
e-Mental Health in Central Massachusetts is a project of the Lamar Soutter Library, in collaboration with the UMass Medical School/UMass Memorial Medical Center Department of Psychiatry, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, and 10 local mental health agencies.

Objective:
To improve access to evidence-based mental health information and local resources for mental health professionals and consumers through information services delivered and enhanced through the Internet.

http://library.umassmed.edu/ementalhealth

Methods and Results:
Improved relationship between library and local mental health agencies was achieved via site visits to local agencies, introducing the project and the concept of e-mental health to the practitioners and health care providers.

Improved access to quality-filtered mental health information for patients and providers through creation of a Web site with content determined from the discussions with the principle agencies.

Improved searching skills for users of the site by providing web-based tutorials and classroom sessions.

Increased usage of library resources by partner agencies through continuous training, free document delivery services, and easy access to professional reference librarians.

Searchable by town and/or by type of service. Results yield contact information plus hyperlink to website, link to directions and/or email if available.

Live news feeds to current stories pertaining to the mental health field.

Information on conditions or diseases
Local service agencies
Latest mental health news
For mental health care providers
About this site

Provides links to various resources often used by providers. Some of the features include:

- Hand-outs for clinical self-tests
- Database of local service agencies
- Funding databases
- Ask a Librarian web form
- ILL request form
- Web-based tutorials for effective searching and website evaluation

The "About Us" page includes a web form to contact the library with a reference question, to suggest a site, to make comments, etc.