

## RHIP and COVID-19 MINI-GRANT PROJECT SUMMARIES

### COVID-19 Final Report for Deschutes County Health Services (RHIP) “Grandpad Pilot Program”

Reviewed by the Promote Enhanced Physical Health Workgroup

#### Summary of Results:

- The COHC grant funded the purchase of 7 Grandpad devices.
- Many older adults in our community are not able to access their providers due to isolation, being quarantined, lack of appropriate technology including internet access or physical challenges such as blindness or deafness.
- These barriers make it impossible or extremely challenging to provide them with quality mental health and medical care.
- The Grandpad devices have given our team direct access into client homes or facilities through face to face technology in order to provide vital mental health services to vulnerable older adults during this continuing pandemic.
- The primary result from purchasing the Grandpad devices is to continue to provide vital mental health services during this pandemic that otherwise would not have been available.
- Since starting the Grandpad program we have increased our telehealth capability with older adults from zero to 1100%. Some benefits we have observed are the following:
  - Grandpad's have offered a social lifeline to isolated older adults, allowing them to connect with family and friends.
  - Clients report an increase in self-esteem as they have mastered learning new technology that is often overwhelming or intimidating.
  - Clients report enjoying features of the Grandpad such as the articles, internet access, radio and games. These additional features have allowed clients to enjoy entertainment and provided continued connection to the “outside world”.

#### Quote:

One client reports the following: “I was nervous about using the Grandpad. Technology is usually hard to learn and confusing. I wasn’t sure if I could do it. I am happy to say I was able to learn something new and with the help of the Older Adults team I am able to stay connected. I use it to do therapy and I can also talk to my family and friends. When we are on “lock down” it can be depressing, but it helps to know I can reach out to my Older Adults team, family or friends. It’s nice to use the features like the radio, articles and I love playing the games. I am grateful for this tool, especially during the pandemic when we have lost so many connections and outlets”.