

The Celeste Foundation, National Institute of Telehealth and CNOW

The Celeste Foundation, The National Institute of Telehealth (NIT) and CNOW have a successful collaboration history of working with families and professionals to provide telehealth services for children with developmental disabilities.

CNOW provided technical support to the landmark research project administered by the Celeste Foundation which investigated ways that interactive video technology might support families of young children, between the ages of 2-5, diagnosed with autism. The project was based on established and empirically driven early intervention principles.

Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the program linked families and professionals using CNOW's telehealth system, enabling live in-home support from professionals located at remote sites. Via CNOW's videoconferencing network, professionals provided consultative support, training and feedback directly into the homes when they were needed most.

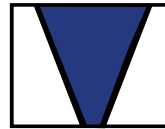
During the Celeste Foundation program, the NIT campus served as the grounds for intensive clinical training for both professionals and families. Located in Mount Dora, Florida, the NIT served as the primary location where CNOW telehealth technology and the Celeste Foundation's clinical service program worked in concert to train both families and professionals in the use of the CNOW system and in the delivery of in-home services.

Professionals and family members in the program indicated very high satisfaction rates using telehealth to deliver/receive services. Significant gains in behavioral goals were achieved with children and a reduction in stress was reported by families. The success of the Celeste Foundation demonstration findings had such significance that its methodologies were featured twice during the Senate hearings on autism.

Continued collaboration to achieve similar monumental goals using telehealth has led the NIT, the Celeste Foundation and CNOW to develop a new pilot program, Project Vanguard, to expand the Celeste Foundation model on a wider-scale and to a larger audience.

Benefits of Providing Clinical Services Through CNOW Telehealth

- Become a part of Project Vanguard's select group of clinicians delivering behavior analytic services to families and their children with autism across the nation utilizing CNOW's telehealth system
- Flexibility to provide telehealth services from your home or office during hours that don't interfere with work schedules (weekends and weekdays after 5pm)
- Observe behavior in natural environments and provide consultation as behavior occurs
- Reduce travel time and costs
- Provide parent consultation and training using revolutionary and successful methodologies
- Be part of an eligible group of clinicians that help establish a new way of reimbursement through Medicaid and private insurance for services using telehealth



PROJECT
VANGUARD

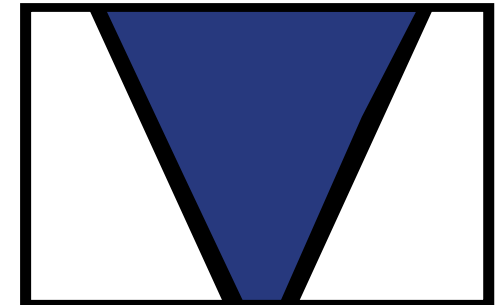
— NIT —
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**The Celeste Foundation,
The National Institute
of Telehealth and CNOW
Present:**



**PROJECT
VANGUARD**

Project Vanguard

Project Vanguard is a pilot project of national service providers who are generously contributing resources to provide telehealth services, at no cost, to 100 families who have children with autism. These providers are donating resources such as computers, software, broadband internet, web cameras and behavior services to support Project Vanguard's mission: to provide in-home telehealth services to families and their children with autism based on the success of the Celeste Foundation model. The Celeste model has been featured twice during Senate Hearings on autism in which the Senate has recommended organizations such as Celeste collaborate with Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) to set telehealth standards and best practices for Medicaid and insurance reimbursement. Project Vanguard will support the development of telehealth standards for reimbursement allowing more families access to behavior analytic treatment through telehealth.

During the Senate hearings on autism, the Labor-HHS Committee recognized the need for standardization in the delivery of telehealth services for reimbursement stating, "[The Committee] further requests that CMS meet with an appropriate array of telehealth specialists including those who have been involved in the demonstration projects supported by this Committee to survey and assess best practices and professional criteria standards and make recommendations to the Committee concerning national standards for telehealth reimbursement which advances and encourages this technology."^{*}

In response to the Committee's recommendation, Project Vanguard will be at the forefront of the telehealth movement by extending the success of the Celeste Foundation model on a larger scale and standardizing its methodology. In addition to clinical practice standards, this follow-up demonstration will further validate telehealth as a successful and effective service provision method that compliments face-to-face service delivery for families and their children with autism.

^{*}Senate Appropriation Bill S.1710 (2008) U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee Report provided by Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education.

Behavior Analysis and Project Vanguard

Project Vanguard is composed of national service providers who will be donating their resources, time and equipment. As such, Project Vanguard is accepting applications from behavior analysts interested in becoming Telehealth Professionals and donating their time to this exclusive opportunity.

In order to meet the demand for behavior analytic services to families and their children with autism, innovative technologies such as telehealth are being used to augment effective services. By joining the Project Vanguard program, behavior analysts will become part of an elite group of professionals who shape how services will be delivered as this technology becomes more widely adopted.

In the Telehealth Professional program, clinicians will attend a free three-day intensive training course at the NIT campus in Mount Dora, Florida. Those who attend will experience the Telehealth Professional curriculum and learn the fundamentals of delivering effective and successful clinical services using telehealth. Upon completion of the training, behavior analysts will receive a CNow telehealth system free of charge.* For one year, professionals will provide between 2-4 hours per week to project families from their homes or offices during flexible hours that will not interfere with work schedules. As part of the Telehealth Professional program, clinicians will have access to Project Vanguard's Professional Advisory Board of nationally recognized professionals for consultation and support. Upon completion of the program, the professional will receive the title/acknowledgement as a National Institute of Telehealth Professional.

Project Vanguard is currently accepting applications for BCBA's and BCaBA's to provide their services pro-bono to 100 families through CNow's telehealth videoconferencing. A selected group of behavior analysts will be invited to participate in the NIT training program and will have the opportunity to become part of an elite group of professionals delivering services through this medium. Should clinicians have families in their respective states who meet Project Vanguard's criteria; the clinician and family may both be able to participate in the program.

Professionals will have the opportunity to be at the forefront of innovative service delivery to families in need across the nation. This program will help provide the model for Medicaid and insurance reimbursement through the use of telehealth.

^{*} The CNow system is free after completion of the one year project period. The CNow system is available for purchase outside of Project Vanguard priced at \$17,000 (including software, equipment, training, access to CNow's VPN and project families).

What Clinicians Can Expect

- Become part of an elite group of behavior analysts who provide clinical services via telehealth to families and their children with autism
- Be among the first to join Project Vanguard and participate in shaping the reimbursement model for behavior analytic services using telehealth
- Receive free three-day training at the National Institute of Telehealth
- Receive the title/acknowledgement of Telehealth Professional
- Provide pro-bono in-home services to families across the country (perhaps in your home state) using telehealth technology from the comfort of your home or office
- Receive a free CNow telehealth system and become part of a National Telehealth Network
- Work with project families and other families across the nation using CNow's revolutionary method of delivering services

Project Vanguard Expectations

- Clinicians arrange travel to Mount Dora, FL., at their own expense, to receive hands-on training from the staff at the NIT
- Donate between 2-4 hours per week of clinical services to families (depending on family needs) for one year
- Work with project families across the nation using CNow's telehealth system
- Maintain behavior analyst certification in accordance with the BACB
- Adhere to the NIT's Professional Code of Ethics