

## **BROADCAST: OSF collaborates to solve psychiatrist shortage amid growing mental health demands**

**Anchor lede:** Many hospital emergency department patients are experiencing long wait times and that's become a concern, especially for those experiencing a mental health crisis. OSF HealthCare in Peoria has launched a telemedicine solution within some hospitals to make sure those patients are assessed by a psychiatrist within an hour.

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**VO OR RADIO PACKAGE**

**RUN TIME :48**

One hour is the target for telehealth provider Amwell's psychiatrists to evaluate emergency room patients with mental health issues at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center and five other hospital emergency departments. OSF is so pleased after four months that it has expanded the program and will eventually roll it out to every hospital in its Ministry. OSF Saint Francis Lead Psychotherapist Danielle Bess says it's also helping relieve wait times for other patients ...

### **SOT DANIELLE BESS**

**"We're a Level 1 trauma center. We need to keep those beds open in the ER and if a patient is waiting 10 hours for a mental health evaluation that clogs up that room availability so the quicker we can get them moved on (to the next level of care) that not only helps them, but it also helps all the other patients that need care as well." (:18)**

**ANCHOR TAG:** At Saint Francis Medical Center, Amwell psychiatrists are *also* being used to assess *admitted* patients whose mental health issues are secondary to their primary reason for needing hospital care.