The MUSC School-Based Health (SBH) program is one of the fastest growing school-based health programs in the country. Rapid expansion will continue in partnership with the South Carolina Telehealth Alliance. The program aims to overcome barriers to care and is associated with an overall reduction in health care costs. Services provided include acute care, chronic disease management (particularly asthma and ADHD), and specialty mental health (trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy).

School-based telehealth has expanded to cover approximately 50 sites across the state. This expansion has been planned in partnership with the SC Department of Education in order to address areas with the largest health and educational disparities. In addition, telehealth has been layered on to all of the 8 in-person school-based health centers (SBHCs) in Charleston County for a total of 20 in-person or telehealth sites in Charleston. This allows a child to still be seen as needed when the provider is not onsite at the school. Survey results of parents whose children have received care through this modality indicate evidence of perceived reduced burdens of care to families, improved and more timely access to care, and reduced stress levels for both parents/guardians and children.

The MUSC SBH team serves as the co-chair of the SC School-Based Health Collaborative, along side the school-based health team from Greenville Health System. The goal of the Collaborative is to bring all of those involved in school-based health from across the state together to share best practices, learn about other school-based health efforts, and explore opportunities for collaboration. The third annual meeting will be held October 27th, 2017 in Columbia. The Annual Dr. Janice Key School-Based Health Achievement Award will be given to a school-based health champion who embodies the School-Based Health Alliances’ 7 core competencies. Please email a member of the school-based health team if you are interested in becoming involved in the organization or would like to nominate an individual for the award.

MUSC SBHC personnel are national leaders. Dr. Kathryn Cristaldi, Medical Director, School-Based Health, was named the AAP Section on Telehealth Care representative to the Pediatric Academic Society Program Committee. She will be presenting the program this month at the National School-Based Health Alliance Convention. Kelli Garber, Lead Nurse Practitioner, was selected to participate in the NAPNAP (National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners) Advocacy Scholars Program and recently presented the program at this organization’s national meeting.

For more information about School-Based Health at MUSC, please contact Elana Wells, School-Based Health Manager (navon@musc.edu), Kelli Garber, Lead Nurse Practitioner (garberk@musc.edu), or Kathryn Cristaldi, Medical Director (kingkl@musc.edu).

Kelli Garber, MSN, APRN, PPCNP-BC, Lead Nurse Practitioner, shares a virtual “fist-bump” with a patient she treated via telemedicine.