

Wyoming Telehealth Consortium (TC)

Minutes, September 27, 2011

Attendees:

James Bush MD, Rex Gantenbein, Hyrum Kurth, Sam Lippolis, Liz Simpson, Steve Ferwerda, Jay Stender, Ryan Mulholland, Sandy Urbanek, Dallas Lain, Ron Pearson, David Manchester MD, Larry Biggio

Introductions:

All parties introduced themselves. Dr. Bush indicated Dallas Lain will start as the state HIT Coordinator at the Office of the CIO shortly, and will coordinate eHealth, HIT, HIE, and help with the advancement of telehealth.

Minutes:

Minutes from the August 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Committee Reports/agenda items

Content/Education Committee

Due to the occurrence of the Wyoming Hospital Association meeting, Ken Watson of Cheyenne Regional Medical Center (CRMC) was unable to attend and report on education activities.

IT Committee

Due to the occurrence of the Wyoming Hospital Association meeting, Randy Miller of Cheyenne Regional Medical Center (CRMC) was unable to attend and report on IT Committee activities.

Finance Committee

Larry Biggio of the Wyoming Health Information Organization (WyHIO) briefed on the upcoming Telehealth Network Interoperability Conference on October 14th in Casper. This conference is funded with a grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

The grant request to the CIGNA Foundation for an education/outreach program is still under consideration.

Telehealth Standards: The group held a short discussion on development of telehealth standards in Wyoming.

FCC Report: Rex Gantenbein provided a short history of the FCC grant. The problems with getting invoices in an acceptable format for the FCC should be resolved shortly. The group then discussed the possibility of using Universal Service Funds (USF) to support continuation of the FCC circuits.

Sandy Urbanek requested a list of the mental health centers participating in the FCC grant. Dr. Bush asked about possible grants through the Rural Health Division. Neil Hilton covered the Critical Access Hospital technology grant.

Wyoming Tele-psychiatry Pilot Project (WTPP): Jay Stender of Forward Sheridan reported positive results in the search for additional tele-psychiatric providers for the WTPP, and that Campbell County has entered into a contract with a tele-psychiatric provider for services. Dr. Richards is planning a visit to Lovell as a possible WTPP site, and Hot Springs County will sponsor a demonstration on tele-psychiatry.

Ryan Mulholland of Ptolemy Data Systems indicated that Ptolemy has recently purchased a Polycom RMX 2000 bridge and a DMA 7000 to help support interoperability and fail over capacity. He has proposed that the OCIO support similar DMA equipment for CRMC to support connections between Ptolemy and CRMC. Along with the equipment will be additional Polycom CMA licenses, and Ptolemy will work to distribute the licenses statewide. Ptolemy will also be training staff to support the new equipment.

Ptolemy is moving ahead with plans to build a new data center in Sheridan, to include a 24 seat help desk facility. Dr. Bush indicated he will begin sending new requests for CMA connectivity to Ptolemy.

Telehealth Video: Liz Simpson of the Distance Learning Center provided background on development of the telehealth video, as well as the statewide telehealth website content. Steve Ferwerda of the DLC suggested building a staging website with content now, and when Consortium members approve, moving the site into the permanent location. Steve then walked through the site under development.

The telehealth video was shown, and the group then discussed a number of telehealth benefits, including

- Keeping patients in local communities and in local hospitals
- Additional financial support for struggling hospitals
- Potential use by the Barbara Davis Diabetes Foundation.

Dr. Manchester of the Children's Hospital Colorado echoed the benefit of keeping families and patients in the local communities.

Children's Hospital Colorado Report: Samantha Lippolis of Children's Hospital Colorado spoke to a potential compatibility problem between Logitech cameras and the newer version of Windows.

The Consortium will make the drafts of the credentialing documents available to anyone wanting them.

Avera Health Telemedicine Activities: Programs are functioning in both Douglas and Gillette, and 3 more hospitals are applying for grants for participation.

OCIO Report: Sandy Urbanek indicated that Dallas Lain will be taking over as the OCIO representative to the Telehealth Consortium. Dallas then spoke to her role and goals as the HIT Coordinator.

Telehealth Activity Report: Dr. Bush reported that telehealth activity had slowed in the summer, but has returned to prior levels since school started.

Continuation of website discussion: The group continued the discussion on the telehealth website, including content review and approval, inclusion of vendor information, and posting and maintaining content.

Next Meeting

The next Consortium meeting is Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at 3 pm, in the 5th floor conference room of the Qwest Bldg., in Cheyenne.