

Wyoming Telehealth Consortium (TC)

Minutes, October 25, 2011

Attendees:

James Bush MD, Rex Gantenbein, Sam Lippolis, Dallas Lain, Paul Murphy, Sharla Allen, Dan Perdue, Kevin Bohnenblust, Ray Brand, Bob Lampert, Michelle Mitcheff, Lynn Campbell, Navar Holmes, Emily Genoff, Larry Biggio

Introductions:

All parties introduced themselves.

Minutes:

Minutes from the September 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Committee Reports/agenda items

Content/Education Committee

No report.

IT Committee

No report.

Finance Committee

Larry Biggio of the Wyoming Health Information Organization (WyHIO) indicated the WyHIO was unsuccessful in its grant application from the CIGNA Foundation for a telehealth public education program.

Telehealth Credentialing and Privileging: Dr. Bush briefed that there was no additional input on the credentialing issue, and then reviewed the previous discussion and project history.

The group then held a discussion on the credentialing issue, discussing a number of topics:

- Previous issues raised and changes made to the Center for Telehealth and e-Health Law (CTeL) credentialing templates;
- The ability of the Consortium to promulgate the revised CTeL credentialing templates as standards;
- The revised templates as recommendations;
- Concerns that the Consortium would be seen as providing legal advice by recommending the revised credentialing templates;

- Publishing links to the original CTeL templates and related materials on the Consortium website;
- The impact of a simplified, uniform credentialing process;
- The credentialing templates as a starting point for hospitals to develop their own documents;
- Clarification as to when a hospital is responsible for credentialing a physician;
- The physician's responsibility in the credentialing process.

Following discussion, Dan Perdue moved and Kevin Bohnenblust seconded that links to the original CTeL credentialing documents and related materials, as well as links to other credentialing related documents be posted on the Consortium website. The motion passed.

Review of the Wyoming Hospital Association (WHA) Convention

Dan Perdue of the WHA reviewed discussions held with the hospitals on possible funding for hospital participation in telehealth. He indicated there may be a possible source for one-year of funding to allow hospitals to judge the value of telehealth. Dan will pursue the issue with the WHA Board, and report back to the Consortium.

Dr. Bush then reviewed his previous request to the hospitals for funding and the need for tech support and replacement bridge equipment.

Recap of the Telehealth Network Interoperability Meeting: Larry Biggio spoke about the October 14th telehealth network interoperability meeting in Casper, WY, covering the attendees, presentation, format, and results of the panel discussions. The primary points raised for action in Wyoming were the need for a single point of contact for the multiple networks in Wyoming, and the need for additional public education for telehealth.

The group then discussed a number of interoperability related topics:

- Use of the internet versus private lines;
- Establishment of Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) or other alternatives for consultations and clinical conferences;
- Current encryption available on bridges and applicability to HIPAA standards;
- Potential use of bridges for all telehealth connections.

FCC Report: Rex Gantenbein indicated he is still trying to obtain Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approval for invoices submitted under the grant. Rex also provided information about an upcoming webinar on integrating behavioral health information and primary care.

MDT Project Report: Dr. Bush reviewed progress of evaluations under the MDT project. He will be tracking the placement decisions of the judges against the placement recommendations from the child psychiatrists, as well as the prescribing patterns of physicians.

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

Questions were raised as to the need to connect hospitals to entities outside the Avera center in Sioux Falls and any problems with physician licensing. No issues had surfaced on either question.

Children's Hospital Colorado Report: Samantha Lippolis of Children's Hospital Colorado indicated they were working with the Barbara Davis Center to extend telehealth diabetes education into additional locations in Wyoming. Samantha also described the process that the Davis Center uses to work with local communities. The Davis Center had 141 Wyoming patients at last count and over 300 patients in the last several years.

The group discussed a number of related questions:

- Licensing the Davis Center providers in Wyoming, including non-physicians;
- Patients going to Montana for services;
- Opportunities to provide diabetes services by Montana providers via telehealth.

Infrastructure Report: Don Jackson reported that Universal Services Fund (USF) support for hospitals should remain the same, and he expects a formal ruling from the FCC shortly. Wyoming will ask the FCC for an exception to the minimum bandwidth requirements for rural Wyoming hospitals. Wyoming is using USF funds, but could generate more support for connectivity costs.

OCIO Report: Dallas Lain indicated she is quickly learning about telehealth, and had met with representatives of the Video Conference Enterprise.

Telehealth Activity Report: Dr. Bush reported on progress to reduce patient transportation costs by using telehealth, as well as expanded interest in tele-stroke. Bob Lampert of the Department of Corrections spoke to their use of outside medical consultants and reduced inmate transportation costs.

Next Meeting

The next Consortium meeting is Tuesday, November 29, 2011 at 3 pm, in the 5th floor conference room of the Qwest Bldg., in Cheyenne.

Because of the Christmas holiday, the December Consortium meeting is cancelled.