

Wyoming Telehealth Consortium
2023 Meeting Agendas and Minutes

January 31, 2023

February 28, 2023

March 28, 2023

April 25, 2023

May 30, 2023

June 27, 2023

July 25, 2023

August 29, 2023

September 26, 2023

October 31, 2023

December 12, 2023

Wyoming Telehealth Consortium

January 2023 Session Minutes

Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Time: 3:00pm – 4:30pm MST

Location: <https://zoom.us/j/371954998>

Attendees:

1. **Amanda DeDiego** (Assistant Professor, Counseling Center, University of Wyoming)
2. **Amy Surdam** (FNP, Nova Health Urgent Care)
3. **Andrea Shipley** (Project Coordinator Senior, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
4. **Ann Clement** (Public Policy Manager, Alzheimer’s Association Wyoming)
5. **Brittany Brigham** (Project Coordinator, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
6. **Canyon Hardesty** (Assistant Director, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
7. **Claire Hurley** ((President, American Telemedicine Connect Consortium) Out of State)
8. **Deb Anderson** (Health Information Technology Consultant)
9. **Emily Genoff** (Director of Business Development, Wyoming Behavioral Institute)
10. **Jan Cartwright** (Wyoming Telehealth Consortium Finance Chair/HIE Chair)
11. **Jane Cramb** (Resource Database Supervisor, Wyoming 211)
12. **Jennifer Stewart**
13. **Lisa Ammons** (Manager, Unite Us)
14. **Lisa Finkelstein** (Medical Director of Telehealth/Urologist, St. John’s Medical Center)
15. **Michelle Hilaire** (Associate Dean of Student Affairs, University of Wyoming)
16. **Morris McGaugh** (Director of Provider Networks, Mountain Health CO-OP)
17. **Ralph Nieder-Westermann** (Executive Director of Wyoming Lifeline)
18. **Rex Gantenbein** (Board of Trustees Chair, Iverson Hospital)
19. **Robert Johnston** (Wyoming Health Council)
20. **Ryan Harmon** (Director of Operations, Community Health Centers of Central Wyoming)
21. **Sarah Compton** (Telehealth Director, OneHealth)
22. **Sharon Weber** (Director, Wyoming Department of Health)
23. **Shawna Pena** (Unit Manager, Office of Rural and Frontier Health, Public Health division, WDH)
24. **Tai Baker** (Program Manager, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
25. **Thomas Smoll** (CEO of Educational Health Center of Wyoming)
26. **Traci Blevins** (Outpatient/Telehealth Director, Wyoming Behavioral Institute)
27. **Vanessa Hernandez** (Wyoming Department of Health, Public Health Division)

Facilitator: Tai Baker

Minutes: 90

Welcome and Overview Tai Baker	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and ice breaker.
Strategic Partners and Outreach Committee Update Rex Gantenbein	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussed status of bills about mental health compacts.• Discussed federal funds that are being released to improve broadband.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting with Wyoming Business Council. Trying to get their director to talk to the Consortium. • Brief discussion about 9-8-8 funding. Having a trust fund is a start, but money needs to be put into it. • Looking into an educational meeting with Labor Health. • Talked about telehealth policy champions and identified individuals who might be good contacts and supportive. • Deb Anderson: She is part of a group that is trying to determine if they can align different health needs assessments. Her group also has money put aside to set up an educational meeting. • Power of Rural call for proposals deadline is Feb 3, 2023.
<p>Steering Committee Update Sharon Weber</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The chair of the telehealth consortium has not been appointed yet. Tai is currently running the meetings. • The WDH has some new administrators. • Discussed creating a new member of the Consortium orientation.
<p>Finance Committee Update Tai Baker</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee has a leadership change. Faith Jones is the Chair and Lisa Ammons is the Co-Chair. • Updated the Finance Committee Charter. • Working on an action plan for the 2023 calendar year. • Templates for meeting minutes and agendas have been created. If any of the other committees would like to utilize these, they are welcome to. • Working on identifying the financial barriers and needs of telehealth implementation. • Reminder that the Finance Committee can be a resource to help organizations with telehealth funding initiatives.
<p>WTC Priorities for Action Tai Baker</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the virtual health/telehealth priorities of your organization and those represented by the WTC? • What are your/your organizations current efforts and activities surrounding telehealth? • What priorities would benefit from multiple perspectives and further collaborative action? • What are your reasons for joining the Consortium?
<p>Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See you again in February!

Next Meeting: February 28, 2023 (3:00pm – 4:30pm)

Wyoming Telehealth Consortium

February 2023 Session Minutes

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Time: 3:00pm – 4:30pm MST

Location: <https://zoom.us/j/371954998>

Attendees:

1. **Amanda Devitt**
2. **Amy Surdam** (Chief Operations Officer, InstaClinic)
3. **Andrea Shipley** (Project Coordinator Senior, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
4. **Brian Worthen** (CEO, Visionary Broadband)
5. **Brittany Brigham** (Project Coordinator, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
6. **Canyon Hardesty** (Assistant Director, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
7. **Claire Hurley** (President, American Telemedicine Connect Consortium [out of state])
8. **David Johnson** (Technical Consultant in the Wyoming Business Council's Broadband Office)
9. **Deb Anderson** (Health Information Technology Consultant, Mountain Pacific Quality Health)
10. **Debbie Paiz** (Systems Manager, Wyoming Department of Health)
11. **Edith Wilson**
12. **Faith Jones** (Director of Care Coordination and Lean Consultant, HealthTechS3)
13. **Ginger Mendoza**
14. **Kevin Bohnenblust** (Executive Director, Wyoming Board of Medicine)
15. **Kathleen McMahan** (Provider Relations Manager, Cigna)
16. **Kristie**
17. **Kurt Johnson** (Regional Medical Director, YesCare)
18. **Lisa Ammons** (Manager, Unite Us)
19. **Maribel Frank** (Director, Regional Telehealth Operations, Banner Health)
20. **Michelle Hilaire** (Associate Dean of Student Affairs, University of Wyoming)
21. **Morris McGaugh** (Director of Provider Networks, Mountain Health CO-OP)
22. **Nanette Smith**
23. **Rachel Riter**
24. **Rob Creager** (Business and Economic Development Policy Advisor for Governor Mark Gordon)
25. **Sarah Compton** (Telehealth Director, OneHealth)
26. **Shawna Pena** (Unit Manager, Office of Rural and Frontier Health, Public Health division, WDH)
27. **Tai Baker** (Program Manager, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
28. **Tammy McGuire**
29. **Tom Lacock (Associate State Director, AARP Wyoming)**
30. **Thomas Smoll** (Chief Executive Officer, Educational Health Center of Wyoming)
31. **Traci Blevins** (Outpatient/Telehealth Director, Wyoming Behavioral Institute)
32. **Vanessa Hernandez** (Translator, Wyoming Department of Health, Public Health Division)
33. **Unidentified Attendee**
34. **Unidentified Attendee**

Facilitator: Tai Baker

Minutes: 60

Welcome and Updates

- Power of Rural Conference
 - The Wyoming Department of Health, Office of Rural Health, The Wyoming Primary Care Association, and the Wyoming

Tai Baker, Secretary,
Program Manager,
WyTN

Institute for Disabilities are partnering to put in a conference that will be in-person in Laramie at the end of April. There will be virtual and hybrid options too. The conference is focusing on innovations in rural health as it relates to Wyoming.

- Currently in the process of reviewing abstracts.
- Wyoming Department of Health Telehealth Education and Research Request
 - Requested letters of support from the Consortium as well as statewide agencies to support Wyoming Institute for Disabilities and its program Wyoming Telehealth Network to apply.
 - The Consortium voted on providing a letter of support and the motion passed.
 - If anyone is interested in applying, please reach out to WIND.
- Requested Consortium members to form a workgroup to provide guidance and feedback on the application.

Broadband Panel
Tom Lacock,
Associate State
Director, AARP
Wyoming

- Broadband is designed to provide fast, affordable, and reliable internet access across the state.
- Three experts in the field of internet service discussed developments in Wyoming Broadband.
 - **Rob Creager (Business and Economic Development Policy Advisor for Governor Mark Gordon):**
 - Federal administration is supportive of broadband.
 - \$56 million of CARES Act money has been put towards broadband and another \$70.5 million through American Rescue Plan Act, and then the Infrastructure Bill could provide an additional \$400 – \$600 million.
 - **Dave Johnson (Technical Consultant in the Wyoming Business Council’s Broadband Office):**
 - The \$70.5 million dollars provided by the American Rescue Plan Act was recently approved to support broadband. The majority of the funding will go towards infrastructure. Providers, municipalities, and non-profits will be eligible to apply for those funds.
 - The application process is planned to begin in May, 2023. The broadband projects need to be completed by 2026.
 - The funds for the Infrastructure Bill will begin to be distributed in the 2024 timeframe and complete in the 2027 timeframe.
 - **Brian Worthan (CEO, Visionary Broadband):**
 - The challenge Wyoming has with implementing broadband is the state is spread out.
 - Grant funds will help Wyoming implement Fiber broadband.
 - Question and answer session.

**Steering Committee
Update**

- Discussed moving forward with a legislative interim topic. It was decided the committee would postpone submitting a topic.

<p>Tai Baker, Secretary, Program Manager, WyTN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Steering Committee is who needs to be contacted if anyone would like to add an item to the Consortium agenda.
<p>SPOC Committee Updates Tom Lacock, Associate State Director, AARP Wyoming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was decided to hold off on the interim topic and figure out what the asks are.
<p>Finance Committee Update Faith Jones, Director of Care Coordination and Lean Consultant, HealthTech</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started to work through the workplan. • Looking to reach out to Dr. Johnson to start having some conversations around what types of things are getting reimbursed through Medicaid in Wyoming, and what types of things the committee should be asking for to receive some support on being reimbursed through telehealth and those types of services.
<p>Additional Information Tai Baker, Secretary, Program Manager, WyTN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WyTN provides a robust list of resources, webinars, and guidance on its website. The WyTN Newsletter also provides resources to assist providers. • The WyTN website will soon display resources and informational materials on its main page to help navigate the end of the PHE.
<p>Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We appreciate the Consortium’s efforts to move the work forward. See you in March!

Next Meeting: March 28, 2023 (3:00pm – 4:30pm)

Wyoming Telehealth Consortium

March 2023 Session Minutes

Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Time: 3:00pm – 4:30pm MST

Location: <https://zoom.us/j/371954998>

Attendees:

1. **Andrea Shipley** (Project Coordinator Senior, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
2. **Andrew Freedman** (MD, Evanston Regional Hospital Sleep Medicine Center)
3. **Ann Howard** (Program Director, Health Information Technology Management, LCCC)
4. **Brittany Brigham** (Project Coordinator, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
5. **Canyon Hardesty** (Assistant Director, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
6. **Deb Anderson** (Health Information Technology Consultant, Mountain Pacific Quality Health)
7. **Edith Wilson**
8. **Elaina Zempl** (Broadband Manager, Wyoming Business Council)
9. **Emily Genoff** (Director of Business Development, Wyoming Behavioral Institute)
10. **Faith Jones** (Director of Care Coordination and Lean Consultant, HealthTechS3)
11. **Jan Cartwright** (Wyoming HIE Co-Chair)
12. **Jeffrey Dockter** (Systems Supervisor, State of Wyoming Enterprise Technology Services)
13. **Kathleen McMahan** (Provider Relations Manager, Cigna)
14. **Lisa Finkelstein** (Medical Director of Telehealth/Urologist, St John’s Medical Center)
15. **Maribel Frank** (Director, Regional Telehealth Operations, Banner Health)
16. **Michelle Hilaire** (Associate Dean of Student Affairs, University of Wyoming)
17. **Morris McGaugh** (Director of Provider Networks, Mountain Health CO-OP)
18. **Ralph Nieder-Westermann** (Director, Wyoming Suicide Lifeline)
19. **Rex Gantenbein** (Board of Trustees Chair Ivinson Hospital)
20. **Sharon Weber** (Office of Rural Health Manager, Wyoming Department of Health)
21. **Sarah Compton** (Telehealth Director, OneHealth)
22. **Tai Baker** (Program Manager, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
23. **Vanessa Hernandez** (Translator, Public Health Division, Wyoming Department of Health)

Facilitator: Tai Baker

Minutes: Brittany Brigham

Welcome and Introductions

Tai Baker, Secretary,
Program Manager,
WyTN

- Introductions
- The [Jamboard link](#) was shared to help identify priorities for the Consortium. We are also currently in the process of filling the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Consortium.

Legislative Update

Andrea Shipley,
Project Coordinator
Senior, WyTN

- Legislative Update
 - **SF0165** - Mental health telehealth pilot program. Died in Committee.
 - **SF0010** - Licensed professional counselor compact. Passed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SF0026 - Psychology interjurisdictional compact. Passed. ○ HB0004 - Medicaid twelve-month postpartum coverage. Passed. ○ HB0037 - Telecommunicator cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Died in Committee. ○ HB0065 - 988 suicide prevention. Assigned Chapter Number 70.
<p>Steering Committee Update Sharon Weber, Director of the Office of Rural Health, Wyoming Department of Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) reached out asking the Wyoming Department of Health flex coordinator for support of research being done by the University of North Carolina that involves critical access hospitals and use of telehealth. ● The new Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director, Dr. Paul Johnson, approved Consortium voting membership to applicants. Acceptance letters were sent out. ● Dr. Johnson begins his position on April 1, 2023.
<p>SPOC Committee Updates Rex Gantenbein, Board of Trustees Chair for Ivinson Memorial Hospital</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What strategic partners are we missing? What needs to be done to involve them in the Consortium? ● Currently looking at practitioners that could be involved. ● Examining current Consortium membership and assessing representation. ● Would like to work on an onboarding process. ● Working on developing a concrete activity plan.
<p>Finance Committee Update Faith Jones, Director of Care Coordination and Lean Consultant, HealthTech</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identifying barriers for practices in utilizing telehealth as it relates to finance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Are practitioners getting paid? ○ Are they getting billed? ● Will be meeting with the deputy insurance commissioner to gain a better understanding of legal parameters involved with telehealth. ● Looking at if we are looking at ways to bring funding to the Consortium. If so, for what? Trying to gain an understanding.
<p>Telehealth Cost/Savings Tai Baker, Secretary, Program Manager, WyTN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Question to consider: How do we provide education to Wyoming payors and legislators about telehealth? ● Possible metrics to measure the cost/savings of telehealth services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outpatient utilization ○ Telehealth utilization ○ Improve quality of life ○ Decrease hospitalization ○ Amount of money saved
<p>Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thank you all for your efforts! See you in April!

Next Meeting: April 25, 2023 (3:00pm – 4:30pm)

Wyoming Telehealth Consortium

April 2023 Session Minutes

Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Time: 3:00pm – 4:10pm MST

Location: <https://zoom.us/j/371954998>

Attendees:

1. **Amanda DeDiego** (Assistant Professor, University of Wyoming Counseling Program)
2. **Amy Surdam** (Chief Operations Officer, InstaClinic)
3. **Andrea Shipley** (Project Coordinator Senior, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
4. **Andrew Freedman** (MD, Evanston Regional Hospital Sleep Medicine Center)
5. **Ann Howard** (Program Director, Health Information Technology Management, LCCC)
6. **Ann Clement** (Public Policy Manager, Alzheimer’s Association Wyoming Chapter)
7. **Brittany Brigham** (Project Coordinator, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
8. **Canyon Hardesty** (Assistant Director, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
9. **Deb Anderson** (Health Information Technology Consultant, Mountain Pacific Quality Health)
10. **Debra Antista Bianchi** (Executive Director, Alzheimer’s Association Wyoming Chapter)
11. **Dustin Brown**
12. **Emily Genoff** (Director of Business Development, Wyoming Behavioral Institute)
13. **Faith Jones** (Director of Care Coordination and Lean Consultant, HealthTechS3)
14. **Jeffrey Dockter** (Systems Supervisor, State of Wyoming Enterprise Technology Services)
15. **Kathleen McMahan** (Provider Relations Manager, Cigna)
16. **Lisa Ammons** (Community Engagement Manager, Unite Us)
17. **Maribel Frank** (Director, Regional Telehealth Operations, Banner Health)
18. **Michelle Hilaire** (Associate Dean of Student Affairs, University of Wyoming)
19. **Mike Yin** (Representative, State of Wyoming)
20. **Paul Johnson** (Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director, State of Wyoming)
21. **Sandy Root-Elledge** (Executive Director, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
22. **Sharon Weber** (Office of Rural Health Manager, Wyoming Department of Health)
23. **Sarah Compton** (Telehealth Director, OneHealth)

Facilitator: Andrea Shipley

Minutes: Brittany Brigham

<p>Welcome and Introductions WTC Priorities for Action Canyon Hardesty, Associate Director, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions• Welcome Dr. Johnson!• Reviewed the Jamboard feedback that was submitted by Consortium attendees.• <u>Key Findings:</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why are you here?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Networking○ Staying connected and up to date with practices.○ Improving current services.○ Advocating for widespread use of telehealth services.• What are your current efforts and activities surrounding telehealth?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Offering and/or expanding telehealth and/or teletherapy.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coalition work. ○ Providing training in telehealth delivery. ○ Holding/delivering grants. ○ Facilitating telehealth and connecting organizations to patients. ○ Connecting with hospitals/clinics, enforcing telemental health insurance parity. ○ Supporting aging people in this rural, frontier landscape. ○ Examining broadband issues and basic access. ○ Informing patients that telehealth exists. <p>Priorities of WTC Stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increasing access to broadband, internet, and other devices. ○ Advocating for telehealth policy. ○ Developing or supporting telehealth implementation knowledge. ○ Addressing stigma of telehealth and telemental health. ○ Addressing the Public Health Emergency. <p>What priorities would benefit from multiple perspectives?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Data and usage – medical and mental health and lifestyle education, prevention, and treatment access. ○ Advocacy for state policy and continued funding. ○ General workflow/workforce models and telemental health parity enforcement. ○ Return on investment (ROI). ○ Barriers and facilitators to services and supports. ○ Legislative voice. ○ Provider education about telehealth. ○ General assessment of telehealth usage. ○ Gathering data of where we see telehealth being implemented and how it’s used. ○ Further defining what quality of services means/quality improvement/patient vs. provider quality. ○ Addressing stigma with telehealth services.
<p>End of the Public Health Emergency Andrea Shipley, Project Coordinator Senior, WyTN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● View the End of the PHE Resources Page on the WyTN website for more information on how the end of the PHE will impact telehealth services. ● Per Kathy McMahan (Cigna): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MD live is like Dr. Johnson said if you have a sore throat and you don’t have time to make an appointment with your regular doctor Cigna members can use the virtual option. ○ Providers that offer Virtual Care would need to submit appropriately for a virtual visit (platform doesn’t come into the situation) and there is coverage if the member benefits allow.
<p>Finance Committee Update Faith Jones, Director of Care Coordination and Lean Consultant, HealthTech</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Met with Tana Howard, the Deputy Director of the Wyoming Department of Insurance. Currently trying to figure out what telehealth parity means in Wyoming.

<p>Steering Committee Update Sharon Weber, Director of the Office of Rural Health, Wyoming Department of Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The college of Health Sciences has a new Dean, Dr. Jacob Warren. • Some of the items discussed during this Consortium were also discussed during the Steering Committee meeting.
<p>SPOC Committee Updates Andrea Shipley, Project Coordinator Senior, WyTN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started to think about getting our message as a Consortium out to the public, particularly how the End of the PHE will impact providers, but also how it will affect patients. • Tom Lacock sent out a press release about the upcoming WyTN Webinar that will feature Nicki Perisho discussing the implications of the end of the PHE. We will have a panel of PHE champions on a panel to answer questions. • Developing messaging for what the end of the PHE means for patients.
<p>WyTN Funding Canyon Hardesty, Associate Director, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The College of Health Sciences will replace the WyTN as the fiscal agent for the Telehealth Education and Research Grant. • Further information will be provided as more details become available.
<p>Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We invite you to attend the upcoming WyTN Webinar that will discuss the end of the PHE. See you all in May!

Next Meeting: May 30, 2023 (3:00pm – 4:30pm)

Wyoming Telehealth Consortium

May 2023 Session Minutes

Date: Tuesday, May 30, 2023

Time: 3:00pm – 4:30pm MST

Location: <https://zoom.us/j/371954998>

Attendees:

1. **Andrea Shipley** (Project Coordinator Senior, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
2. **Amy Surdam** (Chief Operations Officer, InstaClinic)
3. **Briane Olson** (Psychiatric NP, Private Telehealth Practice WY&FL)
4. **Canyon Hardesty** (Assistant Director, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
5. **Debbie Paiz** (Systems Manager, Wyoming Department of Health)
6. **Debra Antista Bianchi** (Executive Director, Alzheimer’s Association Wyoming Chapter)
7. **Dustin Brown** (Director, Wyoming Project AWARE)
8. **Emily Genoff** (Director of Business Development, Wyoming Behavioral Institute)
9. **Faith Jones** (Director of Care Coordination and Lean Consultant, HealthTechS3)
10. **Jeffrey Dockter** (Systems Supervisor, State of Wyoming Enterprise Technology Services)
11. **Kathleen McMahan** (Provider Relations Manager, Cigna)
12. **Kevin Bohnenblust** (Executive Director, Wyoming Board of Medicine)
13. **Larissa Skinner** (Mountain Pacific Quality Healthcare)
14. **Logan Trautwein** (Manager, Payment Integrity, Blue Cross Blue Shield Wyoming)
15. **Lisa Ammons** (Community Engagement Manager, Unite Us)
16. **Lisa Finkelstein** (Medical Director of Telehealth/Urologist, St John’s Medical Center)
17. **Maribel Frank** (Director, Regional Telehealth Operations, Banner Health)
18. **Michelle Hilaire** (Associate Dean of Student Affairs, University of Wyoming)
19. **Ralph Nieder-Westermann** (Director, Wyoming Suicide Lifeline)
20. **Rex Gantenbein** (Board of Trustees Chair Iverson Hospital)
21. **Ryan Harmon** (Director of Operations, Community Health Centers of Central Wyoming)
22. **Robert Johnston** (Executive Director, Wyoming Health Council)
23. **Sharon Weber** (Office of Rural Health Manager, Wyoming Department of Health)
24. **Tai Baker** (Program Manager, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
25. **Traci Blevins** (Telehealth Director, WBI Outpatient Clinic)
26. **Victoria Pumilio** (Project Coordinator, Asst., Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
27. **Paul Johnson** (Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director)

Facilitator: Tai Baker

Minutes: Brittany Brigham

Welcome and Introductions

Tai Baker, Secretary,
Program Manager,
WyTN

- Introductions
 - Announcements
-

Old Business

Dr. Paul Johnson, Chair,
Wyoming Medicaid
Medical Director

- In the interest of time, we are restructuring the organization of the Consortium meetings.
- Committee updates will be included as an attachment to the Consortium agenda that is sent out. However, if there are items from these meetings that people wish to discuss further, they are welcome to bring them to the Consortium.
- There are currently no updates from the committees.

New Business

Dr. Paul Johnson,
Chair, Wyoming
Medicaid Medical
Director

Tai Baker:

- The Maternal Mortality Summit Symposium will take place on Friday, June 2, 2023. The WyTN was asked to provide technical assistance and support through the Zoom platform. You can register [here](#).

Andrea Shipley:

- Previous Quarter Results for the WyTN (January 1 – March 31):
 - Nearly 3,000 website views. The home page was the most viewed, followed by the webinar, provider directory, and provider resources pages.
 - 2,859 WyTN Marketing Contacts; The open rate is higher than the national average.
 - The WyTN Newsletter has an open rate of 31% and the WyTN announcements have an open rate of 32%.
 - The WyTN currently provides over 1600 HIPAA secure Zoom licenses to direct service providers practicing in the State of Wyoming.
 - 85 webinar attendees.
- Since WyTN's inception:
 - There have been over 200 Special Interest Group meetings.
 - Nearly 120,000 mental health counseling meetings.
 - 13,901 addiction meetings and nearly 13,000 speech language pathology meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Telehealth
Reimbursement**

Logan Trautwein, Blue
Cross Blue Shield of
Wyoming

- The WyTN Webinar will take place on Wednesday, May 31st. Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement policies will be discussed. The recording will be available on the WyTN website within one week.
- Logan Trautwein from Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) of Wyoming discussed their reimbursement policies including:
 - BCBS of Wyoming really hasn't changed following the End of the Public Health Emergency (PHE).
 - Everything that was in place during the PHE is exactly the same today. There is nothing to his knowledge they are looking on changing as they move forward. Any changes will be listed on the [telemedicine services matrix](#) on their website beneath the "Office Resources – Billing & Claims" tab.
 - BCBS of Wyoming provides coverage for audio-only telehealth if it is used for behavioral health, but it does not provide coverage for all audio-only telehealth services.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BCBS of Wyoming reimbursable telemedicine services caveats are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. You can't have the originating and distant sites in the same physical facility. ii. BCBS of Wyoming does not reimburse for originating site fees. iii. Providers must be licensed in Wyoming.
<p>Action Items Discussion Paul Johnson, chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How can the Consortium be leveraged if there are barriers to reimbursement for telehealth? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Would there be a letter we could write? What advocacy efforts could we engage in? ○ Make a list of all the people we would advocate to. Who do we advocate to specifically? ○ We could create an advocacy workgroup. The Strategic Partners and Outreach Committee could be a starting point to begin the process. ○ An important question to consider is what will convince insurance companies to make the change? For example, there are cost savings involved in telehealth. ○ Another question to think about is what are the reasons insurance companies won't reimburse for certain types of telehealth services? Can we gather data on this for advocacy purposes? ● Telehealth provision of care over state lines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specialists who can support people with dementia are rare and far between in rural and frontier states. ○ Is the Consortium interested in addressing this gap in services that are needed? ○ People may be unaware that providers offer telehealth in Wyoming. ○ Identifying providers who offer telehealth services and making that information available would be really useful. How do we do that? There is a tool through the Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center. We need to make this well-known and strengthen information dissemination. We could look at doing a pilot study. ○ The WyTN has a provider directory on their website. This directory lists providers who enroll in the WyTN and opt-in to be listed. The WyTN is looking at creating a more comprehensive list of providers by collaborating with the NRTRC, 211, and building up WIM tracking. The WyTN is doing a pilot project with Iverson Memorial hospital to see if they can help coordinate getting providers listed on their database. ● What should our Consortium meetings look like in the future to make the most use of everyone's time? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Should we move back to the quarterly meetings we had before the PHE? We are at a place where this is more feasible. We can still have monthly committee meetings. One concern about moving to a quarterly meeting is it is difficult to get the word out about what is happening. Another concern is there would be less opportunity to hear from providers and more consistency would be helpful. As of right now we will continue to have monthly Consortium meetings and we can reassess down the road. ○ Having some time for educational content where experts and

	<p>members of the Consortium can provide information about their background and discuss how this can be used to move the Consortium forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Our Special Interest Groups ebb and flow but there is a strong need for these groups.○ Could we implement a quick SWOT analysis of people who are implementing telehealth? Can we learn and come up with themes across that? Briane Olsen and a representative from the Alzheimer's Association will present for June and July.
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thank you everyone for your input! See you in June!

Next Meeting: June 27, 2023 (3:00pm – 4:30pm)

Wyoming Telehealth Consortium

June 2023 Session Agenda

Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2023

Time: 3:00pm – 4:30pm MDT

Location: Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/371954998>

Agenda Item

Lead/Facilitator

Meeting Agenda

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and Announcements	Tai Baker , Secretary, Program Manager, WyTN
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Old Business:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Committee updates (if relevant).2. Follow up from the previous month<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. WyTN May 2023 Webinar: Telehealth Billing and Coding Policies Following the End of the PHEii. Standardized statement from the Office of Rural Health, Medicaid and WyTN:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Telehealth On.. Wyoming Medicaid and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming will continue to pay the same telehealth services and codes as the Public Health Emergency comes to a close. So, we want to encourage you to continue to explore the different ways telehealth can support your practice.	Dr. Johnson , Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Business:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Presentation and Discussion on Wyoming Medicaid Telehealth Updates (Educational Session).	Dr. Paul Johnson , Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director

2. Short overview of government-funded broadband enhancement programs in Wyoming (News from the Network).	Tom Lacock , SPOC Co-Chair, Associate Staff Director, AARP Wyoming
• Adjournment	Tai Baker , Secretary, Program Manager, WyTN

Next WTC Meeting: July 25, 2023 (3:00pm – 4:30pm)

Wyoming Telehealth Consortium

June 2023 Minutes

Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2023

Time: 3:00pm – 4:30pm MDT

Location: Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/371954998>

1. **Amanda DeDiego** (Assistant Professor, Counseling Center, University of Wyoming)
2. **Amy Surdam** (Chief Operations Officer, InstaClinic)
3. **Brittany Brigham** (Project Coordinator, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
4. **Briane Olson** (Psychiatric NP, Private Telehealth Practice WY&FL)
5. **Canyon Hardesty** (Assistant Director, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
6. **Deb Anderson** (Health Information Technology Consultant)
7. **Debbie Paiz** (Systems Manager, Wyoming Department of Health)
8. **Debra Antista Bianchi** (Executive Director, Alzheimer’s Association Wyoming Chapter)
9. **Elaina Zempl** (Broadband Manager, Wyoming Business Council)
10. **Faith Jones** (Director of Care Coordination and Lean Consultant, HealthTechS3)
11. **Feliciana Turner** (Performance Improvement and Health Equity Manager, Wyoming Department of Health)
12. **Jan Cartwright** (Wyoming Telehealth Consortium Finance Chair/HIE Chair)
13. **Jeffrey Dockter** (Systems Supervisor, State of Wyoming Enterprise Technology Services)
14. **Lisa Finkelstein** (Medical Director of Telehealth/Urologist, St John’s Medical Center)
15. **Megan Hansen** (Data and Health Informatics Manager, Wyoming Primary Care Association)
16. **Michelle Hilaire** (Associate Dean of Student Affairs, University of Wyoming)
17. **Paul Johnson** (Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director)
18. **Rex Gantenbein** (Board of Trustees Chair Iverson Hospital)
19. **Robert Johnston** (Executive Director, Wyoming Health Council)
20. **Sandy Root-Elledge** (Executive Director, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
21. **Sarah Compton** (Telehealth Director, OneHealth)
22. **Sharon Weber** (Office of Rural Health Manager, Wyoming Department of Health)
23. **Tai Baker** (Program Manager, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
24. **Tom Lacock** (Associate State Director, AARP Wyoming)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and Announcements	Tai Baker , Secretary, Program Manager, WyTN
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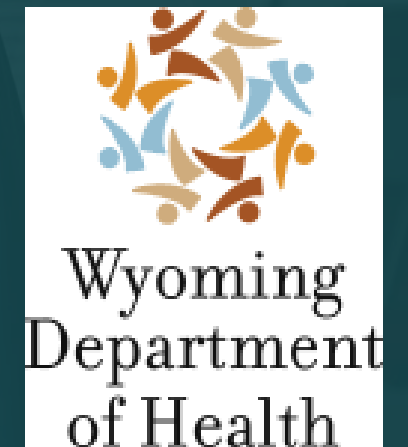
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Business: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Follow up from the previous month. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. WyTN May 2023 Webinar: Telehealth Billing and Coding Policies Following the End of the PHE ii. The Alzheimer’s Association will present at the July Consortium. iii. CTC Technology and Energy will tentatively present at the August Consortium. iv. Briane Olson will present at the September Consortium. 	<p>Dr. Johnson, Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Business: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation and discussion on Wyoming Medicaid Telehealth Updates (Educational Session). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The presentation is attached with the minutes. 2. Short overview of government-funded broadband enhancement programs in Wyoming (News from the Network). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The presentation is attached with the minutes. 3. Broadband updates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Community Services Network of Wyoming received ACP funding from the FCC to promote the program. ii. A Gillette nonprofit received money as well. ii. If you have not already done so, please turn in your partner surveys. iii. Hope to release the Digital Access plan on July 17, 2023 and turn in the five year action plan to the NTI on July 17, 2023 iv. 347 million in funding was announced yesterday. These funds (in conjunction with the provider maps, ARPA funds, and Reconnect funds) may be able to take care of up to half the broadband needs throughout Wyoming. 	<p>Dr. Paul Johnson, Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director</p> <p>Tom Lacock, SPOC Co-Chair, Associate Staff Director, AARP Wyoming</p> <p>Elaina Zempl (Broadband Manager, Wyoming Business Council)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjournment 	<p>Dr. Paul Johnson, Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director</p>

Next WTC Meeting: July 25, 2023 (3:00pm – 4:30pm)

WYOMING MEDICAID: TELEHEALTH UPDATE

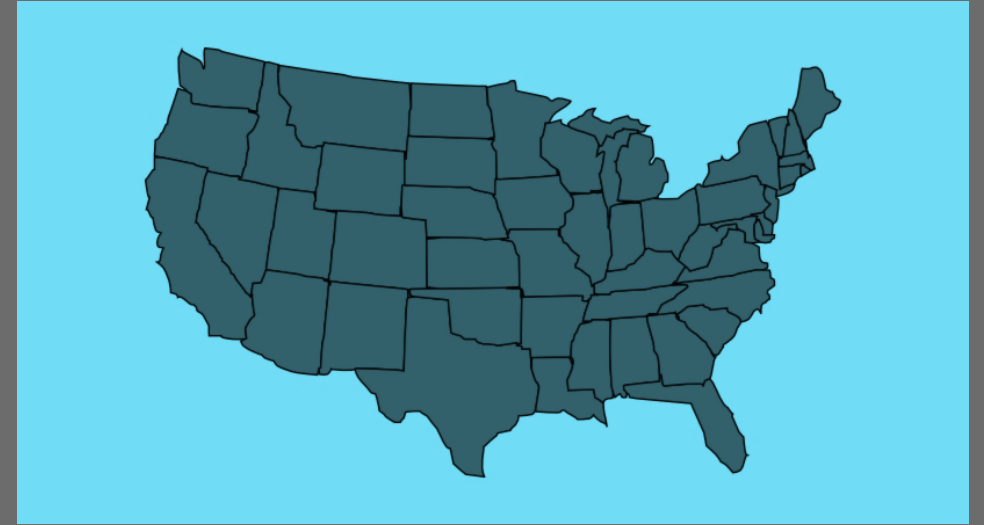
Paul Johnson, MD, MPH

June 27, 2023



MEDICAID BACKGROUND

- Established by adding title XIX to Social Security Act in 1965
- All states participate since 1982
- Federal – State program
 - FMAP (50-77%)
 - 80% MCOs
- Covers 85 million people in the US
 - Pays for half of all births in US
 - 45% of recipients are children
 - Largest payer LTC
- ACA (2010) Medicaid expansion to anyone earning up to 138% FPL
 - National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius (2012)
 - 40 states and DC to date
- ”Unwind” (2023)



WYOMING MEDICAID

Eligibility

-Children

-0-5 \leq 155% FPL

-6-18 \leq 138% FPL

-CHIP $<$ 200% FPL

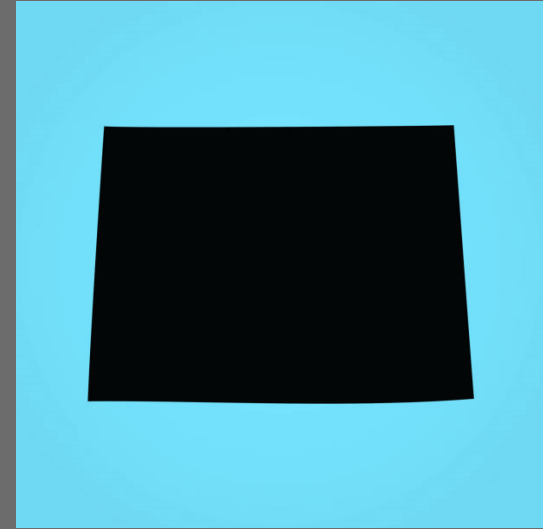
-Pregnant Women \leq 154% FPL

-Aged, Blind, Disabled

\leq 300% Federal Benefit Rate Income Standard

Resources within Max Resource Standard

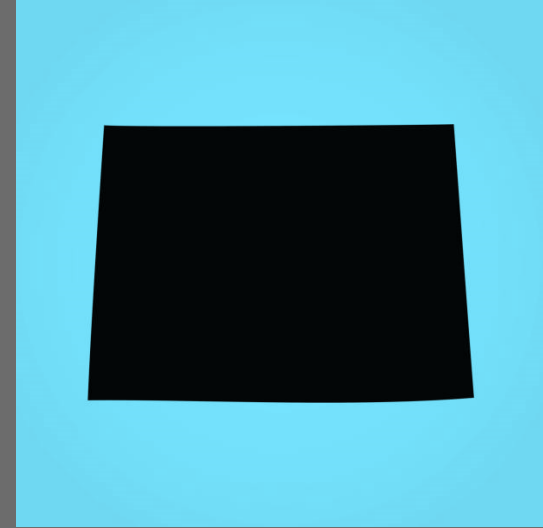
-Other (<https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/programs-and-eligibility/>)



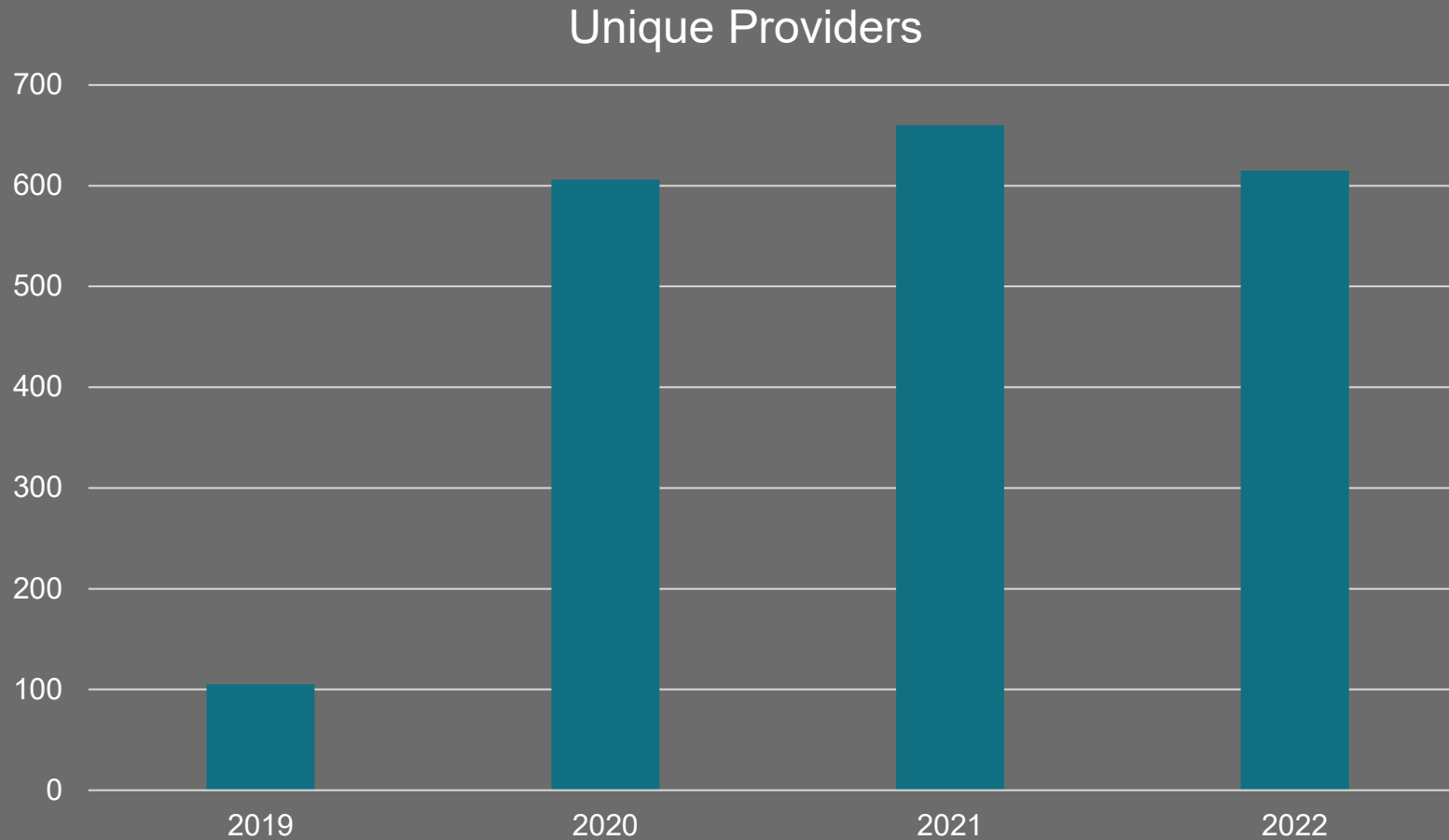
WYOMING MEDICAID

- Medicaid 88,296 enrollees
- CHIP 3744 enrollees (<200% FPL)

- Children 55,725
- Pregnant Women 5391

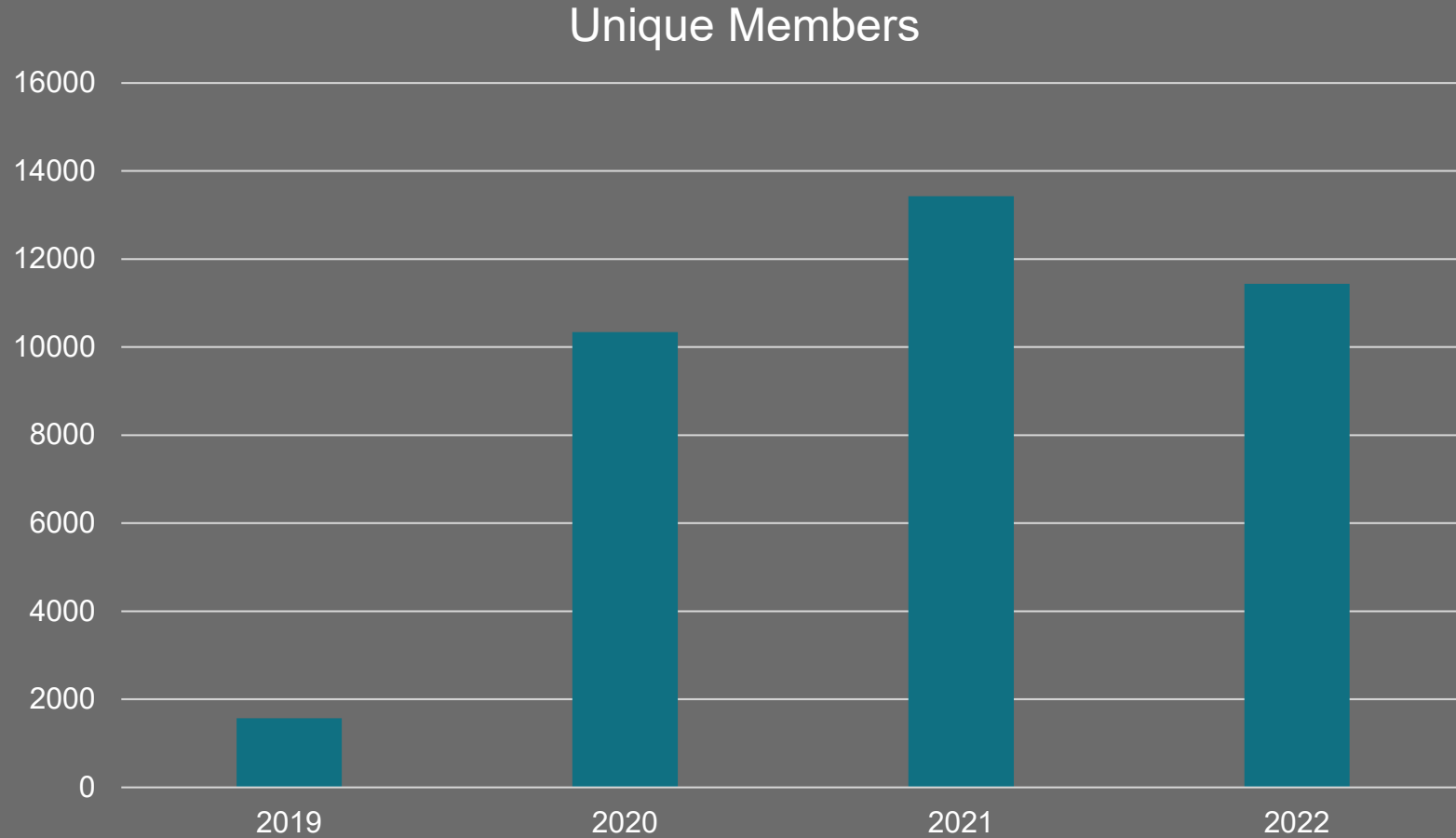


MEDICAID TELEHEALTH TRENDS



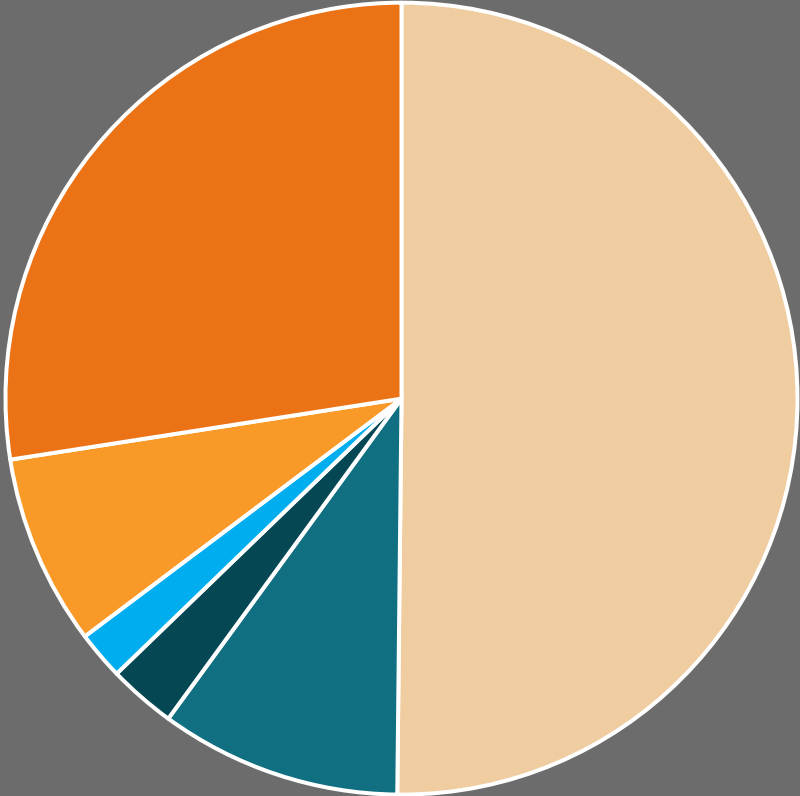
*2022 data incomplete as will take claims up to 12 months after DOS

MEDICAID TELEHEALTH TRENDS



MEDICAID TELEHEALTH TRENDS

2022 Unique Visits n=49,144



■ Mental health ■ Gen Practice ■ Fam Med ■ Peds ■ SLP ■ Other

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Beneficiary Study
 - Telehealth Usability Questionnaire
- Provider Study





REGIONAL WORKSHOPS AND LISTENING SESSIONS

ctc technology & energy
engineering & business consulting

Southeast – Cheyenne
June 8, 2023

AGENDA



Introductions

Broadband Technology Overview

Funding and Programmatic Opportunities

Community Engagement

Survey, Discussion, Q&A

BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY OVERVIEW

An introduction to broadband infrastructure and technologies for communities and local policymakers



FEDERAL AND STATE BROADBAND SPEED THRESHOLDS



**25/3
Mbps**

The FCC's definition is 25 megabits per second down and 3 megabits per second up (25/3 Mbps)

**100/20
Mbps**

Congress set a new 100/20 Mbps standard in the American Rescue Plan Act and Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act

**100/100
Mbps**

State threshold for adequate broadband is 100/100 Mbps

HOW MUCH BANDWIDTH DO WE NEED?

Today we need more bandwidth than minimum 25/3 Mbps broadband speeds defined by the FCC



With augmented reality, other anticipated applications, and increased usage we will soon need much higher speeds

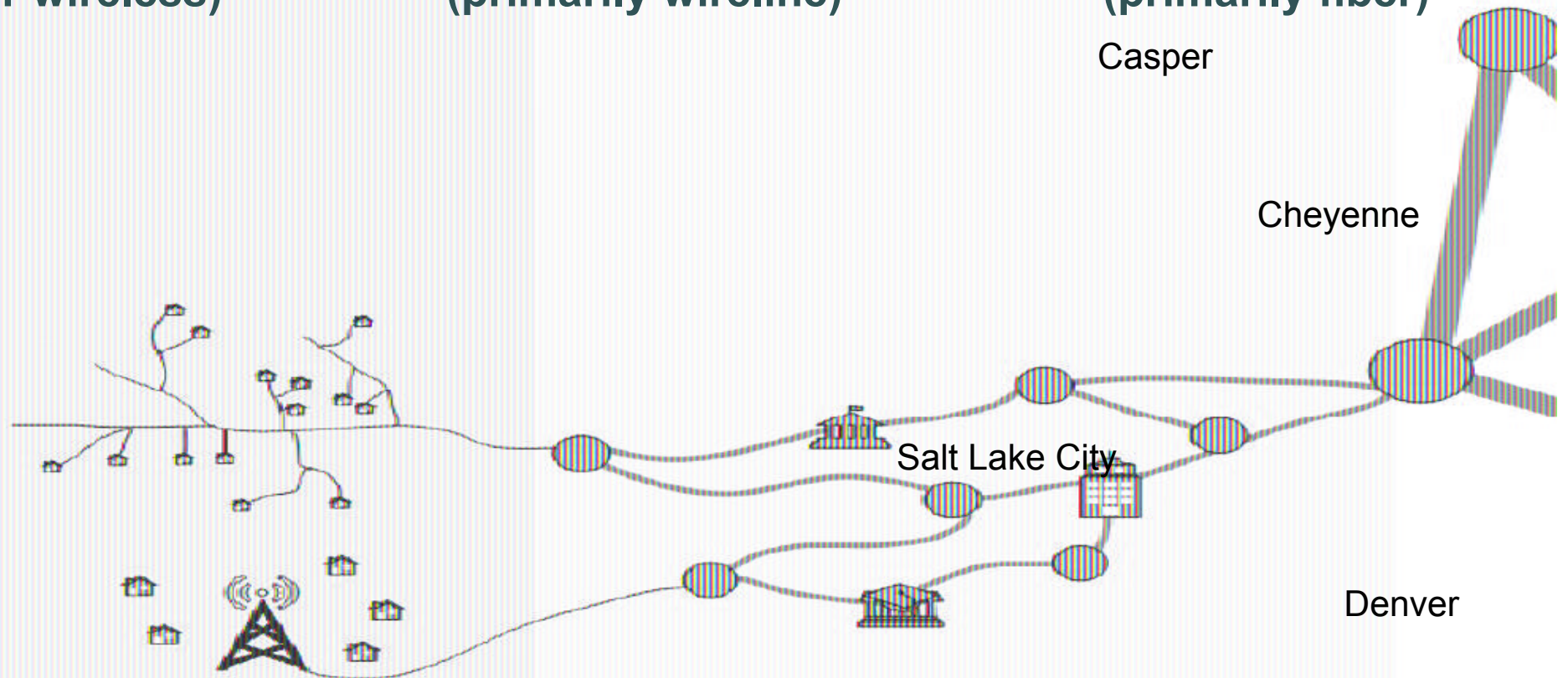


THE ELEMENTS OF A BROADBAND NETWORK

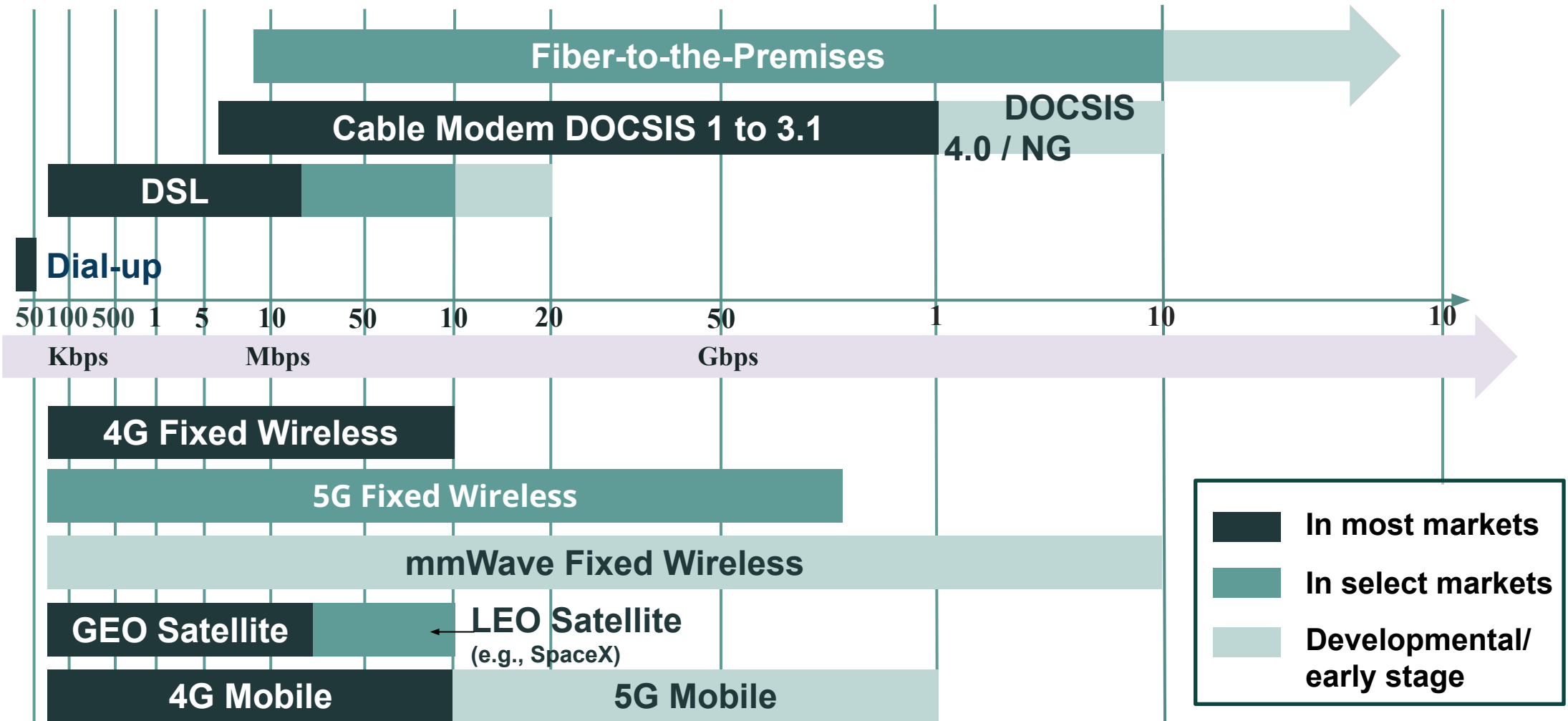
Last-mile
(wireline or wireless)

Middle-mile
(primarily wireline)

Long-haul
(primarily fiber)
Casper

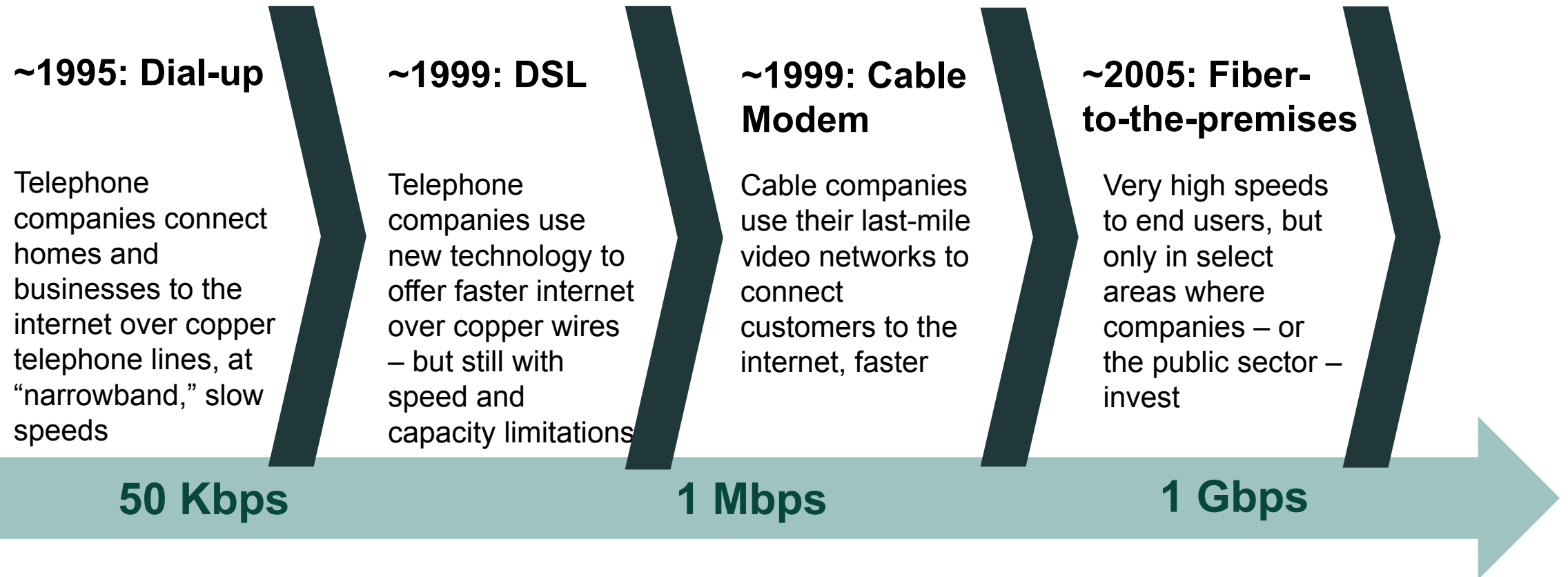


TYPICAL DOWNLOAD SPEEDS: WIRELINE AND WIRELESS TECHNOLOGIES



HOW DID WE GET HERE?

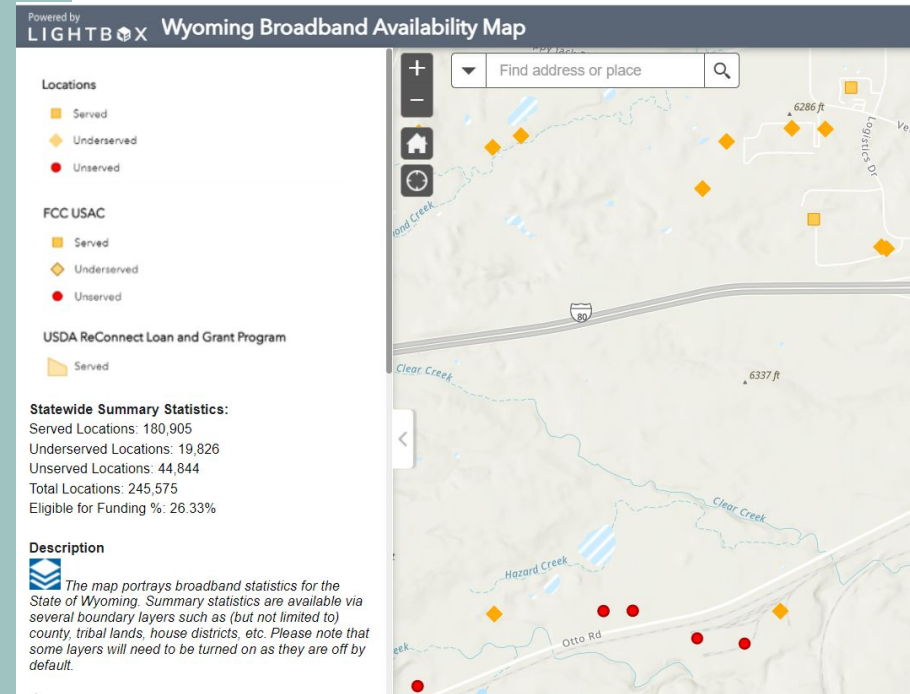
Broadband has developed through the evolution of technology and industry investment



BROADBAND MAPS AT A GLANCE



- **The Public Wyoming Broadband Availability Map**
 - Shows locations and whether they are served, unserved, or underserved
 - Data collected directly from WY ISPs
 - <http://wyomingbusiness.org/communities/broadband/connect-wyoming>
- **The Wyoming Broadband Grant/Application Tool**
 - Available to ISPs who provided map data to the WBC
 - Will be used for Connect Wyoming 2 round of funding
 - <http://wyomingbusiness.org/communities/broadband/connect-wyoming>
- **The National Broadband Map**
 - Available to the public
 - Shows broadband serviceable locations and service
 - Developed by the FCC who collected data directly from ISPs
 - Will be used to determine federal funding allocation for all states in an upcoming program (details in the next slides)
 - <https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home>



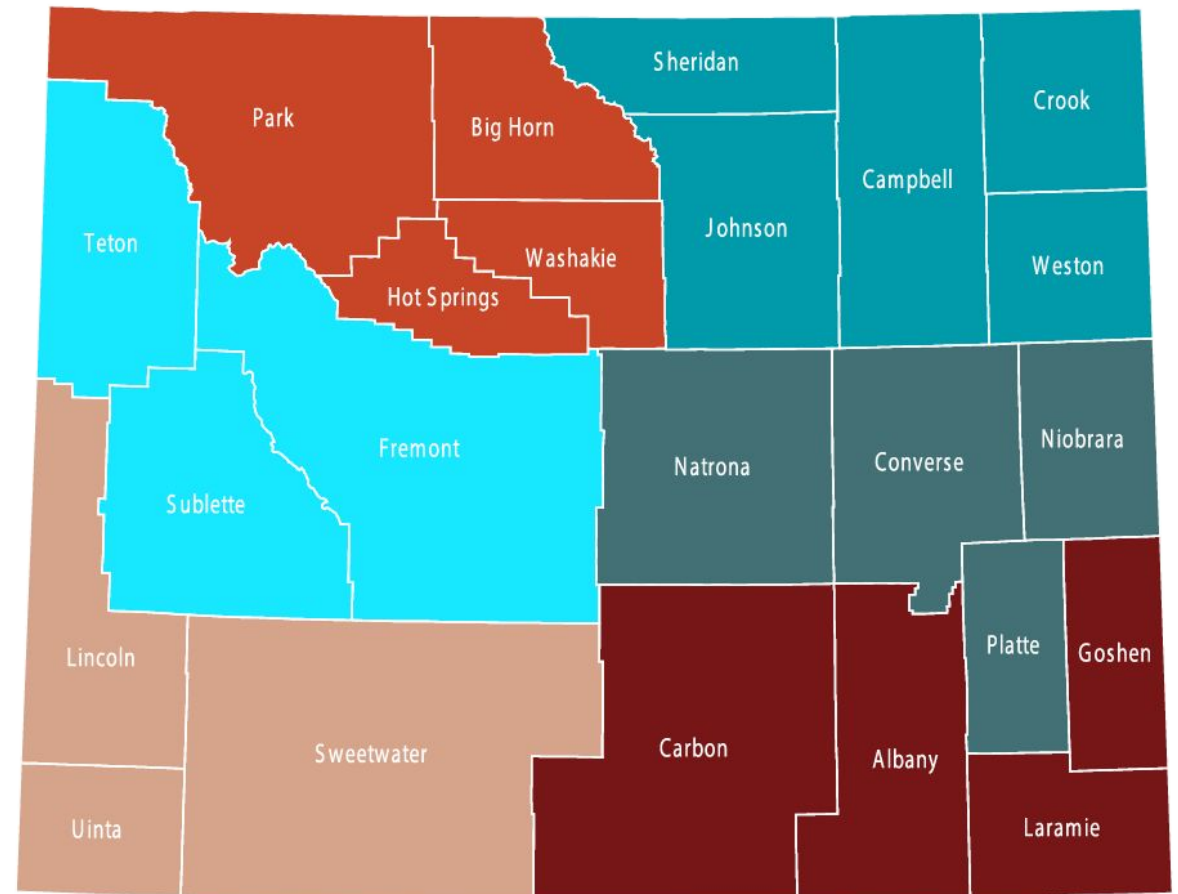
REGIONAL PROFILE



REGION – COUNTY MAPPING



Region	County (Meeting Location)
Northwest	Park (Powell) Big Horn (Greybull) Hot Springs Washakie
Northeast	Sheridan (Sheridan) Johnson Campbell (Gillette) Weston Crook (Sundance)
West Central	Teton Fremont (Riverton) Sublette (Pinedale)
East Central	Natrona (Casper) Converse Niobrara Platte
Southwest	Lincoln (Alpine) Sweetwater (Rock Springs) Uinta (Evanston)
Southeast	Carbon (Rawlins) Albany (Laramie) Laramie (Cheyenne) Goshen (Torrington)



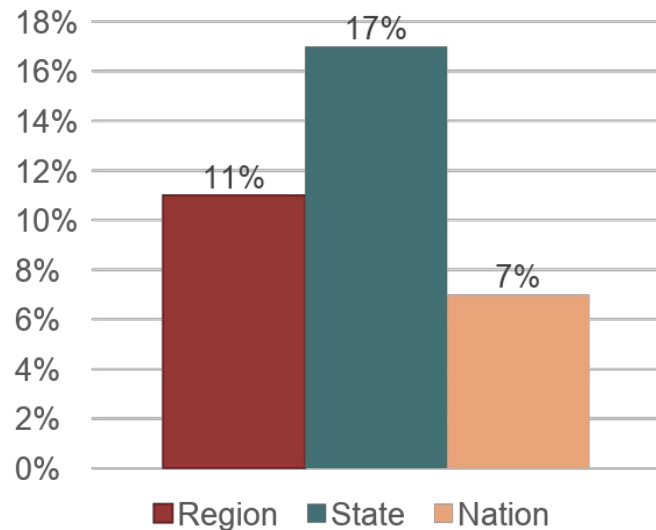
SOUTHEAST WYOMING AVAILABILITY & ADOPTION



Southeast Wyoming has a lower share of households unserved by broadband, but higher ACP uptake and broadband subscription as compared to the state

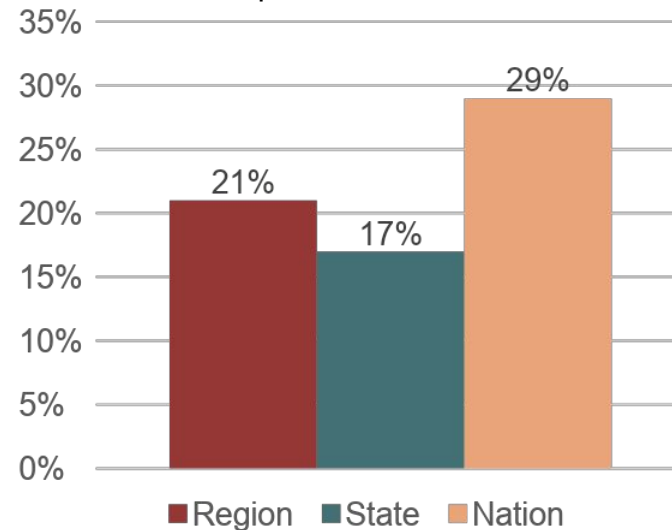
Availability

Per the FCC Map as of December 2022, the region has a lower percentage of households unserved by broadband as compared to the state



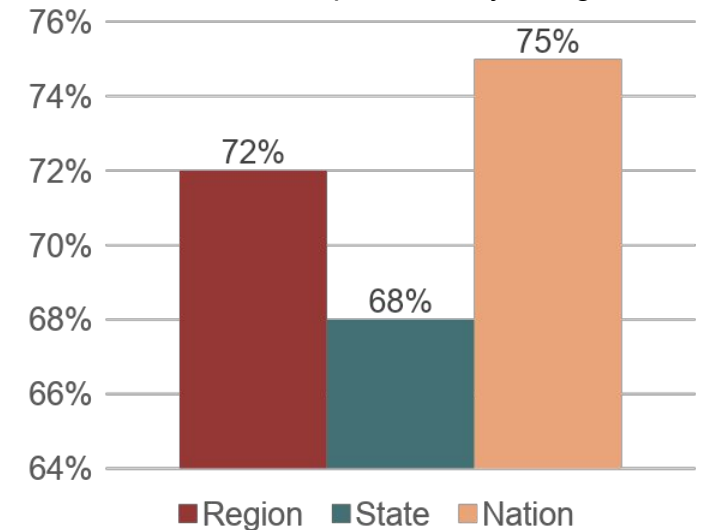
Federal Subsidy Use

Per USAC as of May 2023, the region has a higher percentage of eligible households that participate in the ACP \$30/month subsidy as compared to the state



Broadband Adoption

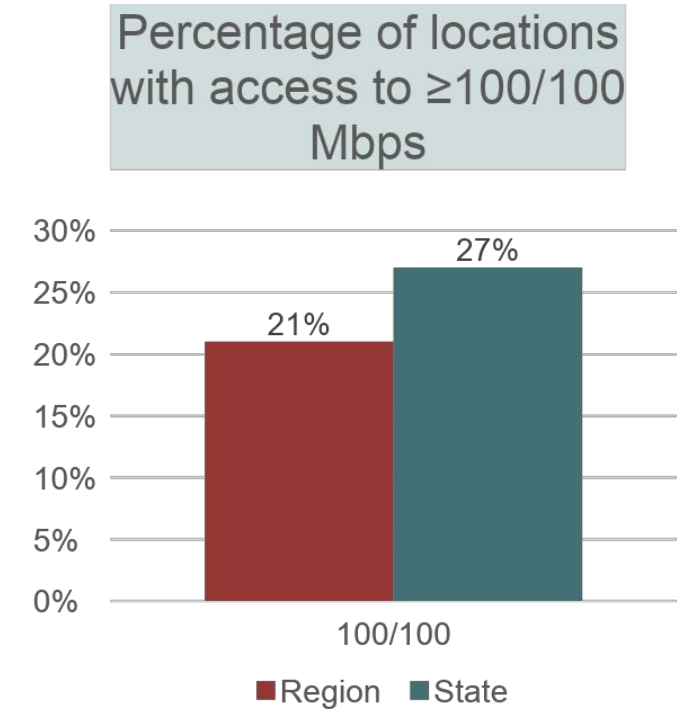
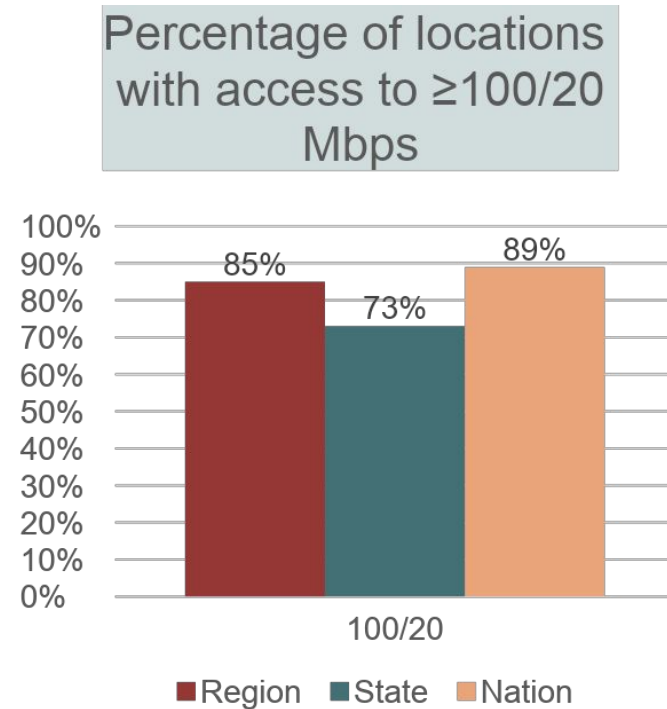
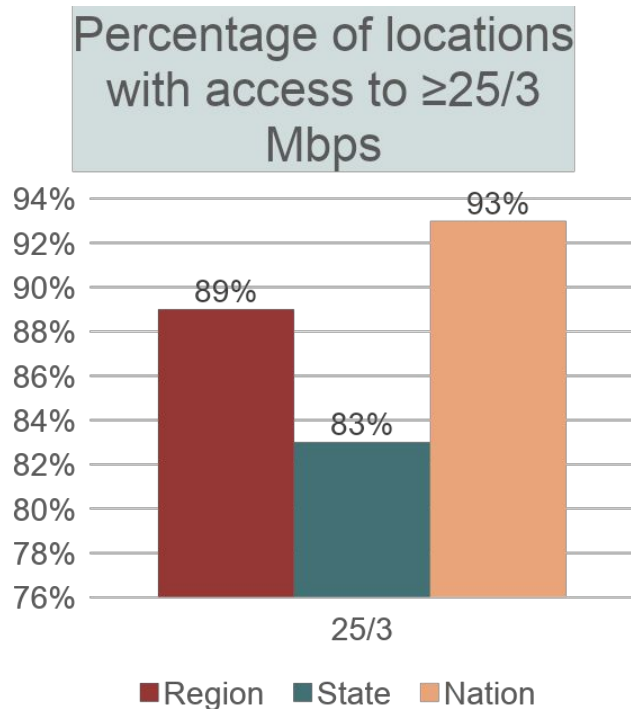
Per the Census ACS 5-Year 2021 survey, the region has a higher percentage of households subscribed to fiber, cable, or DSL internet service as compared to Wyoming



SOUTHEAST WYOMING BROADBAND AVAILABILITY



Southeast Wyoming has a greater share of locations with access to $\geq 25/3$ Mbps and $\geq 100/20$ Mbps as compared to the state, but lower share of $\geq 100/100$ Mbps



Note: National data is not available for locations served by $\geq 100/100$ Mbps.

Source: Federal Communications Commission, National Broadband Map, Broadband Data Collection (as of December 2022)

SOUTHEAST WYOMING UNSERVED LOCATIONS

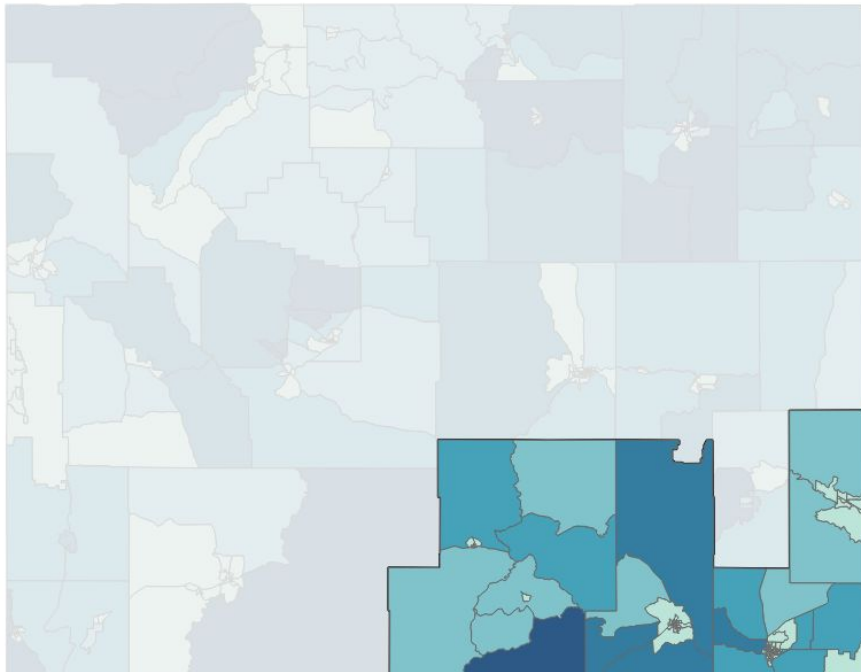


~11% of the region's locations are unserved on the FCC map (7,688 of region's 67,945 locations)

Percent of unserved locations

% unserved as share of CBG's total locations

0-20% 21-40% 41-60% 61-80% >81%



1

Unserved locations are the top priority for federal IIJA funding under federal rules.

2

FCC considers a location unserved that lacks 25/3 Mbps speeds over wireline, licensed fixed wireless, or hybrid licensed/unlicensed fixed wireless.

3

FCC's service estimations may vary depending on geographic locations (e.g., may estimate a higher number of unserved locations in urban areas and a lower number of unserved locations in rural areas)

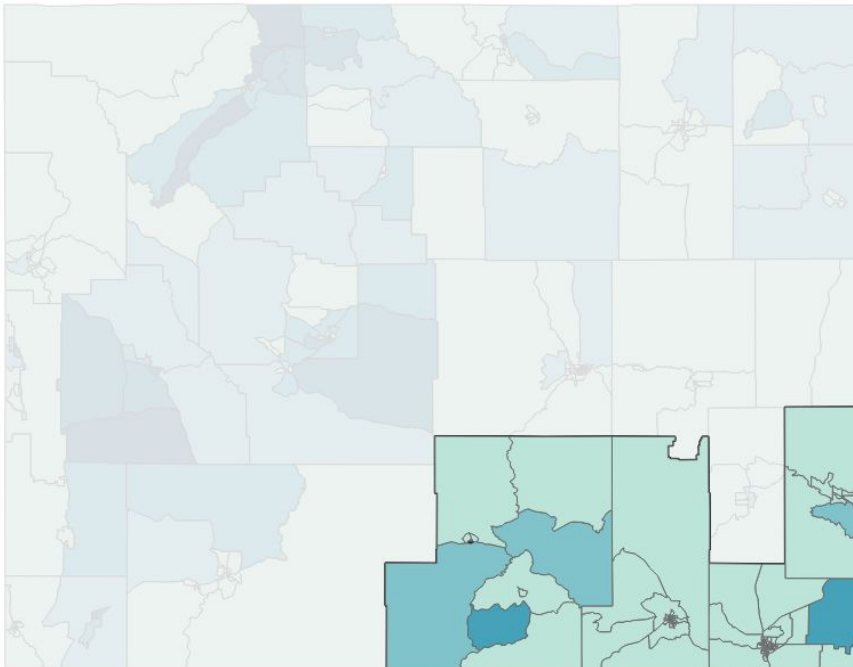
SOUTHEAST WYOMING UNDERSERVED LOCATIONS



~4% of the region's locations are underserved on the FCC map (2,749 of region's 67,945 locations)

Percent of underserved locations
% underserved as share of CBG's total locations

0-20% 21-40% 41-60% 61-80% >81%



1

Under federal IIJA rules, underserved areas (between 25/3 & 100/20) receive funding if unserved areas are addressed first.

2

Accuracy of service estimation may vary depending on a range of variables (e.g., provider reporting, FCC methodology).

3

Although less than 5% of the region's locations are considered underserved, this number varies at the CBG level

FUNDING AND PROGRAMMATIC OPPORTUNITIES

Funding overview and timeline



UPCOMING WYOMING FUNDING



The WBC is planning to launch a new grant cycle using federal funds and is developing two sets of plans to access funds from the federal infrastructure law

Connect Wyoming 2 CPF

Using a Capital Projects Fund allocation from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the WBC will conduct another grant cycle providing opportunities to ISPs to apply for broadband infrastructure funding

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Plans

A series of plans that will be submitted to the federal government to access funding that will be awarded for construction of new broadband infrastructure

Statewide Digital Access Plan

A plan that will be submitted to the federal government to access digital equity funding for programs that help Wyoming households afford, adopt, and use broadband

BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS, AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) PROGRAM



The Wyoming Business Council's plan for expanding broadband to in-state addresses will include funds from the federal Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program of at least \$100 million, plus an allocation based on number of unserved and underserved addresses

Funds to be expended in order

1. Unserved locations: those that cannot get internet service of at least 25/3 Mbps
2. Underserved locations: those that can get internet service between 25/3 and 100/20 Mbps only
3. Community Anchor Institutions (schools, libraries, hospitals) – locations that cannot get 1 Gbps symmetrical
4. Low-income and affordable housing

Planning

Provisional grant program

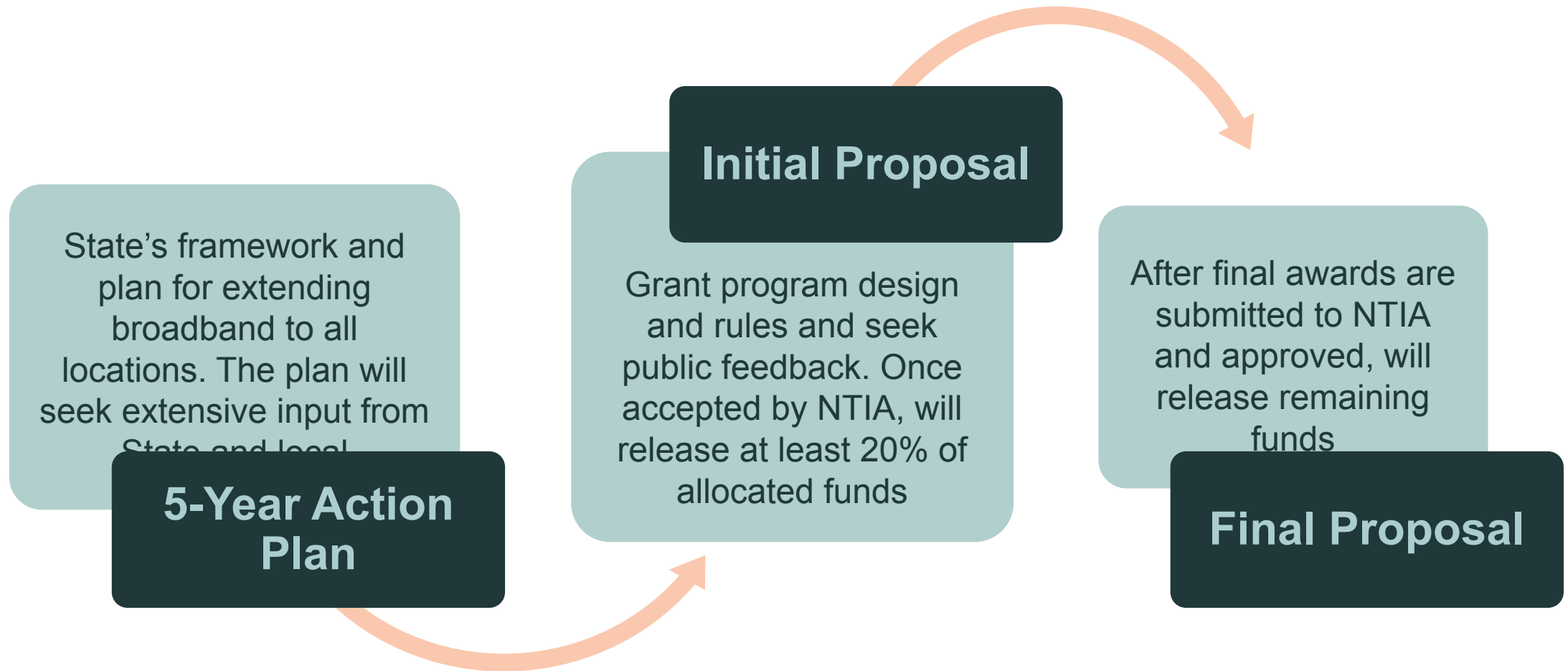
Deployment

2023

2024

2025

REQUIRED PLANNING WILL RESULT IN RELEASE OF BEAD FUNDS



BROADBAND SERVICE DEPLOYMENT UNDER BEAD

Broadband service project areas prioritize unserved then underserved address locations

- State issues subgrants and requires matching funds to deploy broadband infrastructure and deliver service
- Workforce development plans by subgrantees and the State support readiness and new jobs for underrepresented groups
- Low-cost service options available to households qualifying for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)
- Additional low-cost service parameters address affordability for middle class and support service availability to underrepresented groups
- Promote compliance with environmental laws, cybersecurity, and fair and equitable labor practices



STATEWIDE DIGITAL ACCESS PLAN


What is “Digital
Access”?



Broadband Access:
Affordable, accessible, and reliable high-speed home internet service is available for all individuals



Accessible and Inclusive Content:
Public online content is inclusive and accessible by all individuals



Devices and Tech Support:
Individuals have access to a computer or tablet and technical support



Privacy and Security:
Individuals can protect their data privacy and online security



Digital Literacy and Skills:
Individuals have digital skills to support their ability to meaningfully use the internet in their daily lives

DIGITAL ACCESS FUNDING PRIORITIES



The Wyoming Business Council's plan for advancing digital access will create the framework for both the BEAD and Digital Access Programs and support outreach and training for covered populations

Program areas:

- **Broadband Access:** Individuals have more affordable, accessible, and reliable high-speed home internet service
- **Devices and Tech Support:** Individuals have access to a computer or tablet and technical support
- **Digital Literacy and Skills:** Individuals have digital skills to support their ability to meaningfully use the internet in their daily lives
- **Accessible and Inclusive Content:** Public online content is inclusive and accessible by all individuals
- **Privacy and Security:** Individuals can protect their data privacy and online security

Covered Populations:

- Rural residents
- Low-income individuals
- Veterans
- Seniors
- Individuals with disabilities
- English learners
- Racial and ethnic minorities
- Incarcerated individuals

DIGITAL ACCESS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program:

In 2024, the WBC will receive money from NTIA to implement the Wyoming Statewide Digital Equity Program over five years

Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program:

In 2025, NTIA will open a program to fund annual digital equity grants for four years. Wyoming communities and organizations can apply directly to NTIA

PARTNERS FOR BROADBAND PLANNING



State Agencies
and
Local and
Regional
Governments

*Government
roles in providing
assets to facilitate
broadband
deployment and
as community
anchors*



Internet
Service
Providers

*ISP roles in
providing
affordable
broadband
and workforce
development*



Community
Anchor
Institutions
(CAI)

*CAI roles in
broadband
resilience and
needs for service*



Workforce
Development

*Workforce
development to
support
bottlenecks in
broadband
deployment and
maintain
infrastructure*



Digital
Access Orgs
and Covered
Populations
Reps

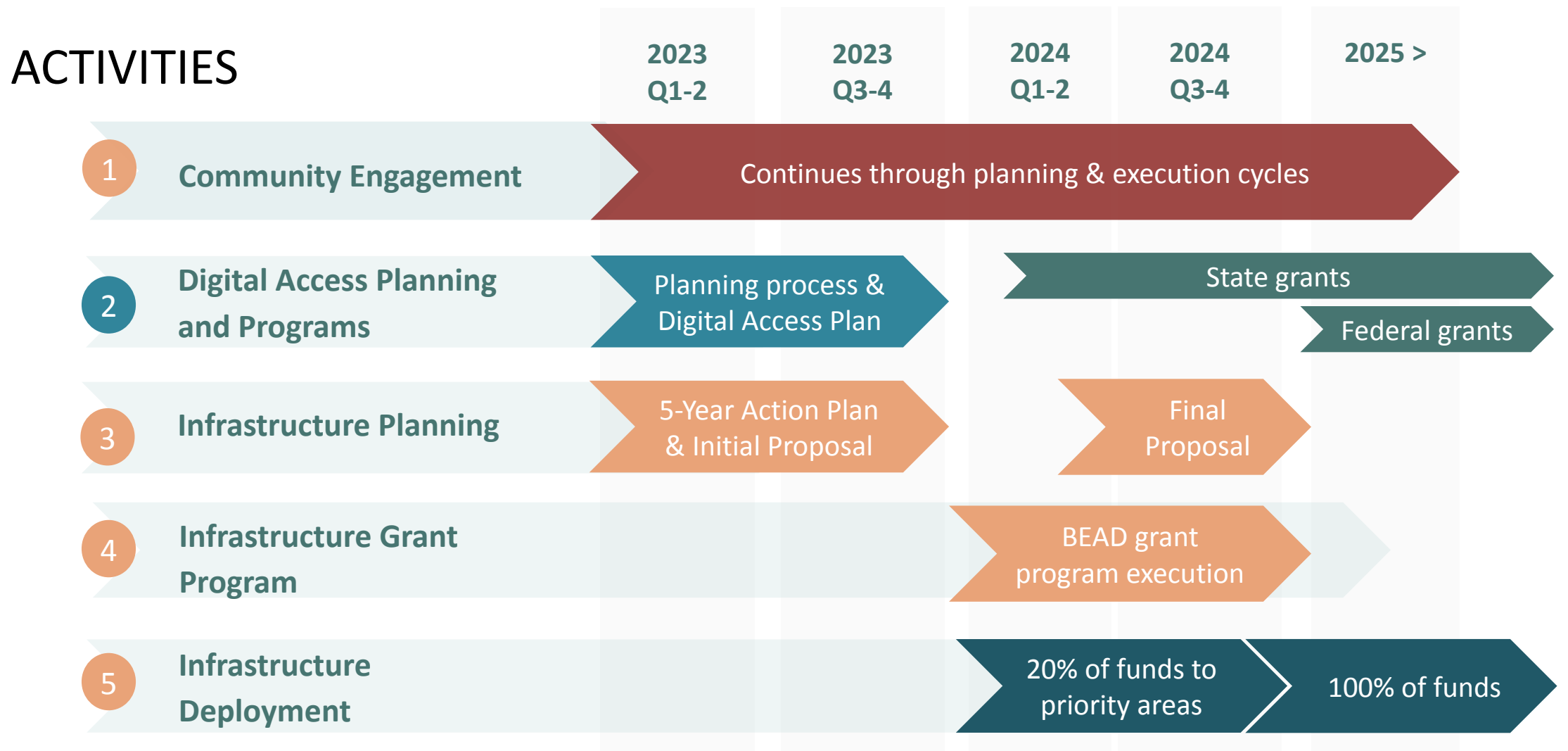
*Organization roles
in advocating and
supporting digital
access and
opportunity
programs and
methods for
measuring
success*



Business and
Economic
Development

*Industry and
development
organization roles
in fostering
growth in
communities*

BEAD AND DIGITAL ACCESS TIMELINE



ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

1 Community Engagement Continues through planning & execution cycles

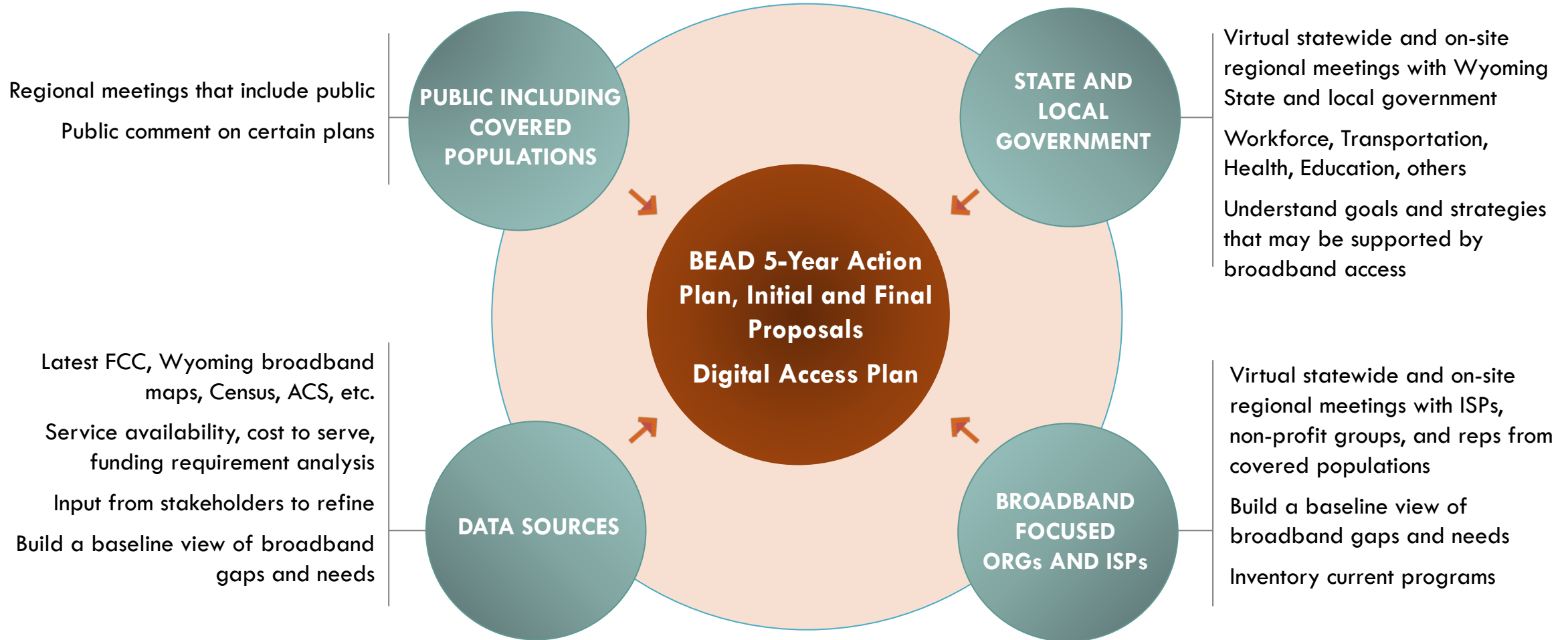
	April	May	June	July	Aug – Dec
Statewide virtual facilitated sessions for: State Agencies, Local and Regional Governments, CAIs, ISPs, Digital Access and Covered Population Orgs, Workforce Development Orgs, and Business and Economic Development Orgs	Completed →				
Surveys and inventories for: Digital Asset Programs, CAI Access, Agency Assets, Covered Populations Access Barriers, Workforce Development Opportunities	In progress →				
Regional meetings			Now →		
Impact analysis; share results			→		

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This is why we're here today!



STAKEHOLDER INPUT IS VITAL



DIGITAL ACCESS OBJECTIVES – IMPACT ON STATE OUTCOMES

Measurable objectives

- **Broadband Access**
- **Digital Literacy and Skills**
- **Privacy and Security**
- **Devices and Technical Support**
- **Accessible and Inclusive Content**
- **Affordability**

Assess
Impact

State outcomes

- **Economic and Workforce Development**
- **Education**
- **Health**
- **Social and Civic Engagement**
- **Delivery of Essential Services**

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM



The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is an FCC program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service

Benefits for eligible households:

- Up to \$30/month internet service discount
- Up to \$75/month internet service discount on qualifying Tribal lands
- One-time discount up to \$100 for a device
- Some low-cost service plans can be entirely subsidized

Household income and federal assistance programs determine eligibility*

Apply for the ACP: affordableconnectivity.gov

ACP Enrollment Support: (877) 384-2575

* See all eligibility criteria at affordableconnectivity.gov

SUBMITTING AN FCC BROADBAND MAP CHALLENGE



Communities can challenge data in the FCC's broadband map

Map may contain errors which can be remedied via a challenge process

Ways to challenge:

- Challenge an individual address*
- Challenge bulk addresses**
(requires individual address input)

Types of information to challenge:

- Address fabric data (building locations and unit counts)
- Reported service coverage

What can my organization do?

- Educate partners and residents
- Support coordination of bulk challenges

* <https://help.bdc.fcc.gov/hc/en-us/articles/10475216120475-How-to-Submit-a-Location-Challenge->

** <https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2022/09/broadband-serviceable-location-fabric-bulk-challenge-process-webinar>

PARTNER SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES



State and Local Government Asset Inventory

Infrastructure-related assets that may help facilitate or reduce the cost of broadband deployment in the State



Community Anchor Connectivity

Barriers and obstacles to clients, facility access, criticality of internet to mission and program capacity



ISP Preparedness

Sources for hiring, workforce programs, ACP, internet skills and adoption, collaboration in community, deployment approaches, disaster recovery plans



Workforce Programs Inventory

Workforce programs profile, barriers to developing diverse and skilled workforce, ISP workforce-related questions



Digital Access Program Inventory

Program details, planned program types and areas of focus, broadband impacts on programmatic outcomes



Barriers and Obstacles for Covered Populations

Internet, computer, and content access; digital skills; data security; barriers and obstacles; broadband impacts on programmatic outcomes

GOVERNMENT AGENCY ASSET INVENTORY



- **Physical assets** (conduit, fiber, structures, real estate, poles, etc.) available for lease to ISPs for broadband deployment
- **Capital construction projects** that include opportunities for placement of communications facilities
- **Analysis of skilled labor availability and workforce readiness** as it may impact State broadband policies and deployment goals
- **Agency role in tracking and monitoring** broadband or other communications outages
- **Planning or development of regulations** related to reliable and resilient broadband or other communications services
- **Policies and strategic plans** related to broadband digital equity, infrastructure deployment, economic development, resilience, partnerships, business planning and related efforts



COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS SURVEY



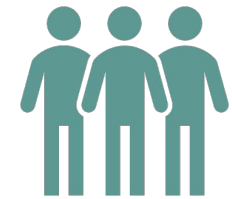
- **Profile:** Organization focus, groups you serve, and programs or services that facilitate use of broadband internet services by your clients
- **Barriers and obstacles:** Describe what prevents members of the communities you serve from accessing or using broadband internet
- **Facility access:** Level of internet access your organization's locations have and need. Can you get at least 1 Gigabit per second? If not, why not?
- **Criticality of service:** Criticality of broadband internet service to your mission. Has your organization been consulted in emergency or resilience planning?
- **Workforce development:** Is your organization involved in telecom or technology workforce programs?



DIGITAL ACCESS PROGRAM INVENTORY



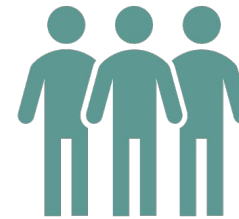
- **Profile:** Groups your organization serves, broadband/digital equity plans, are you part of a broadband coalition?
- **Existing programs:** Details on digital equity programs or services you offer, aspects of digital equity addressed, populations served, length of program activity, budget range, scope, scale, and so on
- **Planned programs:** New programs you may be developing
- **Programmatic impacts** of access to broadband by communities you serve. Metrics used to measure progress. Metrics the State should consider for economic and workforce, education, health, and civic and social engagement outcomes



COVERED POPULATIONS BARRIERS SURVEY



- **Internet access:** Individuals in covered populations' experience with internet service
- **Computer access:** Individuals' experience in accessing computers
- **Digital literacy and skills:** Individuals' ability to effectively use technologies, get information, and use the internet
- **Inclusive and accessible content:** Individuals' access to meaningful website content
- **Data privacy and cyber security:** Individuals' ability to secure their information and computers
- **Barriers and obstacles:** Unique barriers to accessing broadband internet, home computers, and website content; acquiring digital skills; and securing information
- **Programmatic impacts** of access to broadband



Covered Populations:

- Rural residents
- Low-income individuals
- Veterans
- Seniors
- Individuals with disabilities
- English learners
- Racial and ethnic minorities
- Incarcerated individuals

INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS SURVEY



- Sources used for hiring workers for broadband service deployment
- Workforce development or apprenticeship programs. How you will work with the State on workforce development for broadband deployment, including programs to support diversity
- Participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program, subsidized service offerings speeds and costs
- Internet skills and adoption programs
- Collaboration with communities to close the digital divide
- Approaches to deploying broadband in areas most expensive to serve
- Continuity and disaster recovery plans



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SURVEY



- **Profile of workforce development programs your organization provides or uses, including:**
 - Programs for job placement in the communications industry or transferable skill sets
 - Programs addressing any specific populations or communities (such as rural)
 - Current capacity for developing and offering trainings to meet workforce demands in the communications industry
 - Plans for developing and offering additional programs to meet future demands
 - Funding sources for training programs
- **Barriers and obstacles to developing a diverse, skilled workforce and how these can be mitigated**
- **ISP workforce-related questions**



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STAKEHOLDERS



Telecommunications providers

Construction companies

Industry associations

Trade groups

Rural cooperatives

Municipal associations

Vocational nonprofits

**Communications/
electric trade unions**

Community colleges with technical programs

State and local workforce development agencies

Equipment manufacturers

STATE WORKFORCE PLAN

The BEAD and Digital Equity grant programs must have plans to achieve a diverse, skilled, and sufficient workforce for building and maintaining high-speed internet infrastructure, including specialized telecommunications and construction jobs, and to train workers for

Must address:

- Compliance with federal labor and employment laws – i.e., fair labor practices, civil rights, and nondiscrimination
- Skilled workforce activities – developing a highly skilled workforce and ensuring State subgrantees do the same
- Equitable training and workforce development activities – ensuring fairness and diversity
- Contracting requirements



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- What does digital connectivity look like for your organization and community today?
- What are the current barriers and opportunities to broadband access, devices, and digital skills for your community?
- What are your future broadband funding and deployment priorities that are necessary to support your organization's goals and create strong digital connectivity for your community?

- What assets does your organization and community have that can help the State optimize broadband access and connectivity for your constituents?
- What broadband planning or related activities exist for your organization or in the community?
- What additional partners should be included in the planning process?
- Discuss your organization's role in workforce development

QUESTIONS ABOUT WORKFORCE



• Discuss your organization's role in workforce development.

- Do any current workforce development programs include broadband-related jobs?
- What opportunities are there (e.g., new policies or investment) to expand workforce development programs to include broadband?
- What workforce development considerations should be built into broadband grant program requirements?
- What role should ISPs have in developing the needed workforce?

Broadband-Related Jobs

- Network design engineers
- Telecommunications construction workers
- Make-ready line workers
- Outside plant fiber technicians
- Heavy equipment operators
- Inside plant technicians
- Customer support technicians
- Customer care representatives
- Project management
- IT and Cybersecurity
- Trainers

Are there other jobs that need support?

QUESTIONS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES



- What do you hear from your partners and the public about their challenges with broadband access and opportunity?
 - Do you have upcoming opportunities in your community that would support the expansion of broadband? (E.g., infrastructure projects, greenfield developments, etc.)
 - How do you view broadband enhancing economic development opportunities in your community?
- What publicly owned infrastructure assets could spur broadband deployment in the county?
 - What programs does your agency offer that support broadband access and opportunity for residents? Are you aware of other programs offered by organizations in the county?

QUESTIONS FOR ISPS



- Based on your participation in other private/public funding efforts (ARPA) what should Wyoming consider for its BEAD grant program design?
- What are your top priorities and goals to invest in broadband infrastructure in this region/county?
- What do you need to fulfill broadband deployment and service expansion in the county?
- What are the known obstacles to deployment?

- What publicly owned physical and non-physical infrastructure assets would help your deployment efforts?
- What programmatic assets such as subsidy programs or partnerships with local communities and organizations do you have?
- What workforce resources do you rely on today? Where are the gaps?

QUESTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC



- What is your experience with accessing and using the internet?
- What are the primary activities you use the internet for?
- Does anyone face challenges with internet quality? Accessing a computer?
- Do you feel confident in your skills to use the internet and computers to support you and your family?
- How is Wi-Fi used for operations and access to the public or your

- What local community organizations help you reach the internet? How is that experience?
- Are there government services you regularly engage with online? How is that experience? Are there services you would like to access but can't?



CONNECT WITH US

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ctc technology & energy

engineering & business consulting

DEFINITIONS AND CONCEPTS: BITS AND BYTES



These two are frequently confused but are distinct—both are measures of digital information, but one refers to speed and the other refers to amount of data

BITS PER SECOND (SOMETIMES SHORTENED TO "BITS")

- Used to describe a measure of speed—how fast data travel across a network (“bandwidth”)
- The number of bits per second tells us how fast the communication is moving on the network
 - In a roads analogy, “bits per second” are analogous to a car’s miles per hour
 - **Megabit = 1,000,000 bits**
 - **Gigabit = 1,000 megabits**

A “BYTE” IS EQUAL TO 8 BITS

- Used to describe the amount of data stored (memory capacity)
- The number of bytes tells us how much information is involved
 - In a roads analogy, “bytes” is analogous to the number of cars on the road
 - **Megabyte = 1,000,000 bytes**
 - **Gigabyte = 1,000 megabytes**

• “My internet speed is really fast — it’s up to a gigabit per second.”

BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY

• “My data plan with T-Mobile lets me send or receive a total of five gigabytes per month.”

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXCESS BEAD FUNDS



Broadband Connectivity

Installing or providing low-cost internet to multi-dwelling units for low-income residents; supporting sign-up for broadband subscriptions and subsidies; subsidizing broadband subscriptions

Digital Skills and Digital Navigators

Supporting programs to teach digital literacy skills from entry level to coding; supporting digital navigator programs to provide 1:1 support to help people use the internet

Covered Populations

Focused programs on covered populations such as seniors, veterans, individuals with disabilities, incarcerated individuals, or English learners

Workforce Development

Investing in workforce training to supply workers for infrastructure deployment projects

Telehealth Services

Digital training to support the use of telehealth services

BROADBAND, EQUITY, ACCESS, AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD)



National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) grant program

- ~~• Funding helps states connect unserved addresses, then underserved addresses, then ensure community anchors institutions can get gigabit internet connection~~
- Prioritizes fiber direct to end user for deployment of last-mile infrastructure, requires funded projects to offer low-cost options to eligible subscribers
- At least \$100M to state plus allocation based on number of unserved addresses per FCC maps. States have challenged FCC maps with additional data
- ~~• State must submit broadband Five Year Action Plan, Initial Proposal for deployment projects (20% funding upon NTIA approval), and Final Proposal to complete deployment (remaining allocation upon approval)~~
- **The Five Year Action Plan and Initial Proposal must outline a competitive and transparent grant program in accordance with NTIA restrictions**

STATE DIGITAL EQUITY (ACCESS) PLANNING & CAPACITY (SDEP)



National Telecommunications Information Administration grant programs

- Funding helps states plan for and prepare digital equity programs
- States' planning efforts and must identify needs and barriers to digital equity and outline specific measures aimed at closing the gaps and addressing those barriers
- After State plan is approved, the State will be eligible to **apply for and** receive Digital Equity Capacity Grant program funding
- Competitive grants for digital equity (available to a range of entities to be determined) will open after Digital Capacity grants applications available to States

DIGITAL ACCESS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program:

In 2024, the WBC will receive money from NTIA to implement the Wyoming Statewide Digital Equity Program over five years

Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program:

In 2025, NTIA will open a program to fund annual digital equity grants for four years. Wyoming communities and organizations can apply directly to NTIA.

COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS IN BEAD



- **CAI connectivity:** After unserved and underserved locations, BEAD funds can support access to 1 Gbps **symmetric** internet for CAIs
- **State identifies eligible CAIs** and assesses needs
- **State applies its definition of CAIs** and determines CAI types to serve, and its reasoning if selecting CAIs not explicitly included by NTIA in its definition
- **Challenge process:** Organizations not selected as eligible CAIs will have opportunity to challenge **FCC and** state determination

Definition:

“Entity such as school, library, health clinic, health center, hospital or other medical provider, public safety entity, institution of higher education, public housing organization, or community support organization that facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including, but not limited to, low-income individuals, unemployed individuals, children, the incarcerated, and aged individuals.” (BEAD NOFO p. 11)



DIGITAL ACCESS CATEGORIES AND EXAMPLE STATISTICS



Broadband access

Households served by 100/20 Mbps

- % households subscribed to broadband service
- % subscribers that have reliable service

Digital literacy

Those who are confident using the internet

- % who access government services online
- % who use the internet for telehealth
- % who say using internet is important to their lives

Privacy & security

Those who didn't use internet in past year due to privacy concern

- % who didn't use internet in past year due to fear being scammed
- % who think they can adjust privacy settings
- % who think they can avoid phishing scams

Devices & support

Individuals who have a home computer

- % who know how to access tech support
- % primary computing device meets their needs
- % who can replace a damaged device in less than week

Accessible content

Government websites with high website accessibility scores

- % state and local governments that improve website accessibility score by 5 percent

Affordability

Low-income and middle-class affordable pricing

- % who say cost keeps them from subscribing

WHAT ROLES CAN AN ISP PLAY IN SUPPORTING BROADBAND AND DIGITAL ACCESS PROGRAMS?



Broadband Access:
Affordable, accessible, and
reliable high-speed
home internet service is
available for all
individuals



**Accessible and
Inclusive Content:**
Public online content is
inclusive and accessible by
all individuals



**Devices and Tech
Support:**
Individuals have access
to a computer or tablet
and technical support



Privacy and Security:
Individuals can protect
their data privacy and
online security



**Digital Literacy
and Skills:**
Individuals have digital
skills to support their
ability to meaningfully
use the internet in their
daily lives

BOTTLENECKS COULD HINDER THE MASSIVE CONSTRUCTION EXPECTED



Physical Assets

Fiber optic cable, splitters, cabinets, handholes, conduit, multiport terminals, network electronics

Distribution and Logistics

Supplier stocks, delivery, warehousing/storage

Workforce

Design, field, construction, project management, quality control/inspection

INCORPORATION OF THE PLAN

Workforce development can be incorporated into the state plan in multiple ways

Strategies for Intervention

Requirements for workforce labor standards and activities in grant eligibility

Additional points in grant proposal scoring for compliance with pay and labor standards, apprenticeship programs, and other workforce development priorities

State, industry, education, non-profit and others develop, engage in, and promote activities to mitigate bottlenecks

EXAMPLE ACTIVITIES



Develop core curriculum



Define and adopt unified fiber optic technical certification



Develop career path partnerships and apprenticeship best practices with industry partners



Develop incentives for train-the-trainer opportunities



Develop prison technical programs



Publicize training opportunities to diverse populations and connect them to apprenticeship programs

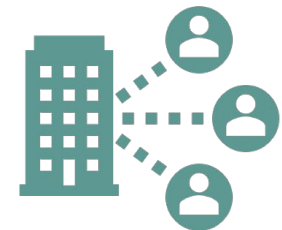


Establish career technical education programs

DIGITAL ACCESS PROGRAM INVENTORY



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BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STAKEHOLDERS



**Telecommunication
providers**

**State economic
development
agencies**

**Industry
associations**

Trade groups

Rural cooperatives

**Municipal
associations**

**Chambers of
Commerce**

**Planning and land
use local agencies**

**Local, regional, &
tribal development
agencies**

DIGITAL ACCESS PROGRAM INVENTORY



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Wyoming Telehealth Consortium

July 2023 Agenda

Date: July 25, 2023

Time: 3:00pm – 4:30pm MDT

Location: Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/371954998>

Agenda Item

Lead/Facilitator

Meeting Agenda

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and Announcements	Dr. Johnson , Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Old Business:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Committee updates<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Finance Committee<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Wyoming insurance providers documentii. Strategic Partners and Outreach Committee<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Letter to commercial insurersiii. Steering Committee<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Strategic planning meeting on Friday, September 29th from 12:00pm-4:00pm.	Dr. Johnson , Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Business<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Alzheimer’s and Dementia Care ECHO Program (Educational Session)	Dana Sohmer , Director, Project ECHO, Alzheimer’s Association
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adjournment	Dr. Johnson , Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director

Wyoming Telehealth Consortium

July 2023 Minutes

Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2023

Time: 3:00pm – 4:30pm MDT

Location: Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/371954998>

1. **Amanda DeDiego** (Assistant Professor, Counseling Center, University of Wyoming)
2. **Andrea Shipley** (Project Coordinator Senior, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
3. **Brittany Brigham** (Project Coordinator, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
4. **Dana Sohmer** (Director, Project ECHO, Alzheimer’s Association)
5. **Danelle Hubbard** (Director of Health Systems, Region Four, Alzheimer’s Association)
6. **Deb Anderson** (Health Information Technology Consultant)
7. **Debbie Paiz** (Systems Manager, Wyoming Department of Health)
8. **Debra Antista Bianchi** (Executive Director, Alzheimer’s Association Wyoming Chapter)
9. **Emily Genoff** (Director of Business Development, Wyoming Behavioral Institute)
10. **Jan Cartwright** (Wyoming Telehealth Consortium Finance Chair/HIE Chair)
11. **Jeffrey Dockter** (Systems Supervisor, State of Wyoming Enterprise Technology Services)
12. **Kara Beech** (Regional Coordinator, Wyoming Coalition on Aging)
13. **Kathleen McMahan** (Provider Relations Manager, Cigna)
14. **Megan Hansen** (Data and Health Informatics Manager, Wyoming Primary Care Association)
15. **Paul Johnson** (Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director)
16. **Rex Gantenbein** (Board of Trustees Chair Iverson Hospital)
17. **Robert Johnston** (Executive Director, Wyoming Health Council)
18. **Ryan Harmon** (Director of Operations, Community Health Centers of Central Wyoming)
19. **Tai Baker** (Program Manager, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
20. **Tom Lacock** (Associate State Director, AARP Wyoming)
21. **Traci Blevins** (Telehealth Director, Wyoming Behavioral Institute)

Welcome and Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Congratulations to Faith Jones on the Nursing School Distinguished Alumnus of the Year award!• Andrea Shipley will begin work with WyCOA. Last day at WyTN is August 17th.
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Dr. Johnson, Chair,
Wyoming Medicaid
Medical Director

<p>Old Business Dr. Johnson, Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director</p> <p>Tai Baker, Secretary, Program Manager, WyTN (member of Finance Committee)</p> <p>Tom Lacock, Co-Chair of the Strategic Partners and Outreach Committee, Associate State Director, AARP Wyoming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wyoming insurance providers document ○ The committee is interested in what is being paid and what is being approved based off of telehealth claims. Wanting to learn more about telehealth parity in Wyoming. ○ Currently Looking for members. ○ Curious about what the barriers to telehealth are. How do providers get paid? Looking at getting a deeper understanding of this. ○ The committee has a list of payors in Wyoming that includes the percentage that they provide commercial plans. ○ This list includes data on Medicare Supplement, Group Accident and Health, and Individual Accident and Health companies with premiums in Wyoming with 2022 and 2021 market shares. • Strategic Partners and Outreach Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wrote an email to commercial insurers to try and get more information from insurance companies. ○ Asking for: Numbers of members (broadly) who attend telehealth appointments, number of (broadly) telehealth visits in a year post-pandemic, top five specialties that use telehealth, and generally which age groups are most using telehealth. • Steering Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategic planning meeting on Friday, September 29th from 12:00pm – 4:00pm.
<p>New Business Dana Sohmer, Director, Project ECHO, Alzheimer’s Association</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alzheimer’s and Dementia Care ECHO Program (educational session). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ See attached PowerPoint slides. ○ Q&A: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Consortium can support the Alzheimer’s Association by spreading the word about their Alzheimer’s ECHO program as a resource. ▪ Discussed ECHO potential for community health workers. ▪ The Alzheimer’s Association has a 24/7 help line.
<p>Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briane Olson, a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, will be our next educational session presenter in August. • The next WyTN Webinar will take place July 26, 2023 from 12:00pm – 1:00pm. Visit the WyTN Registration page to sign-up: https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ejv5rgs7a120443c&oseq=&c=&ch= • Thank you everyone! See you next month.

Next Meeting: August 29, 2023 (3:00pm – 4:30pm)

Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO Program

Presented to Wyoming Telehealth Consortium

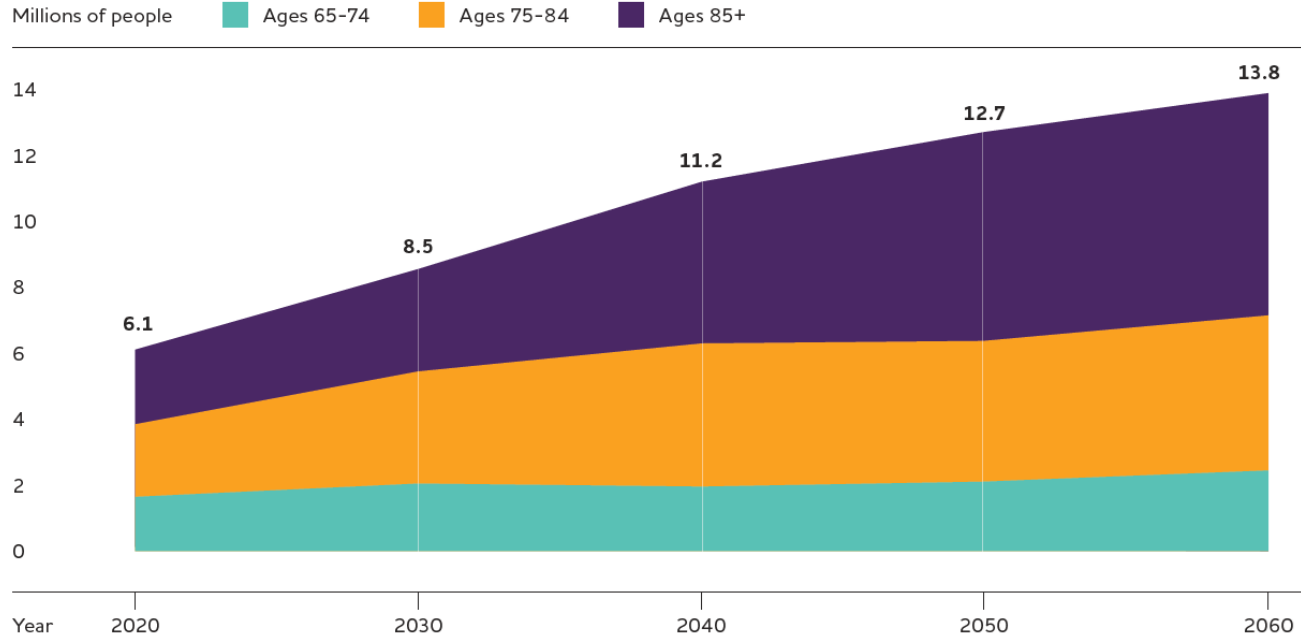
July 25, 2023

ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION®



The number of Americans **65+** living with Alzheimer's is expected to nearly double by 2050.

Projected Number of People Age 65 and Older (Total and by Age) in the U.S. Population with Alzheimer's Dementia, 2020 to 2060



Created from data from Rajan et al.^{A5,216}

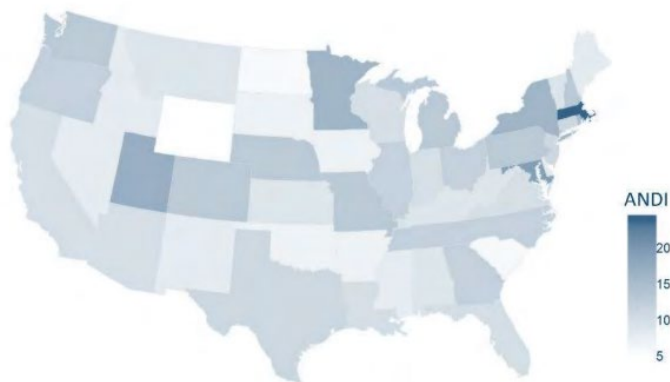
Lack of Dementia Care Specialists



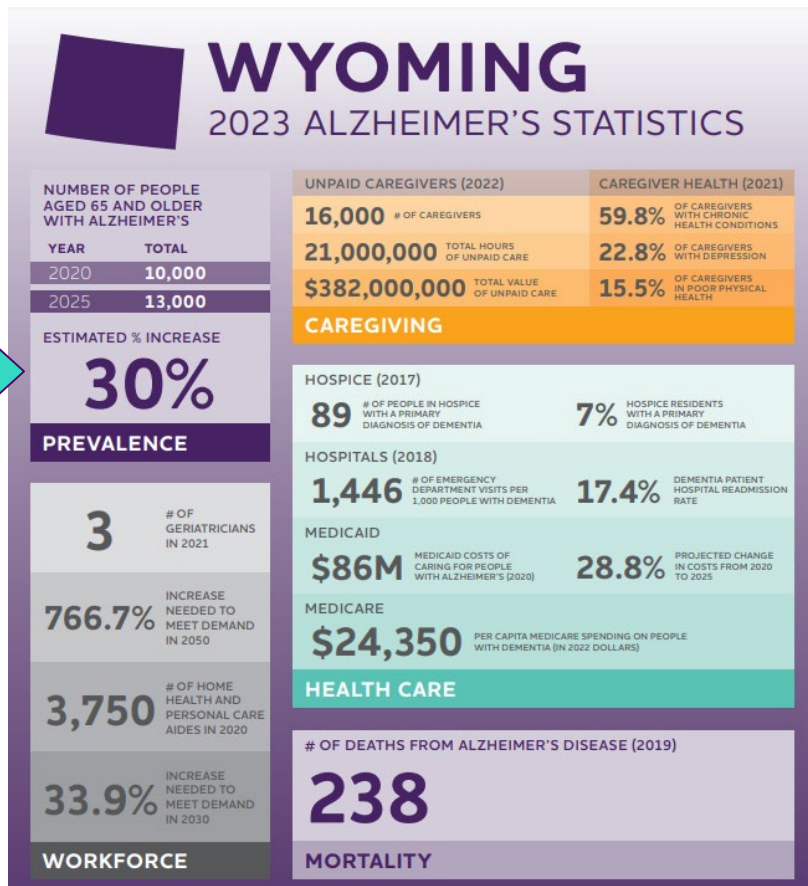
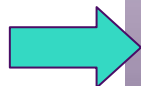
- The United States will have to nearly triple the number of geriatricians to effectively care for the number of people projected to have Alzheimer's in 2050
- Few care professionals specialize in geriatrics:
 - 12% of nurse practitioners have special expertise in gerontological care
 - Less than 1% of registered nurses, physician assistants and pharmacists identify themselves as specializing in geriatrics
 - 4% of social workers have formal certification in geriatric social work.
- 20 U.S. states are “neurology deserts” (fewer than 10 per 10,000) – **WY stay tuned....**
- Efforts to increase recruitment and retention remain slow

Wyoming had the fewest adult neurologists per 10,000 persons with ADRD (2017)

Figure 2
HEAT MAP OF ANDI SCORES BY STATE



Light areas ('deserts') indicate fewer neurologists per capita



PCPs on the front lines of dementia care

Yet,

Half of primary care physicians reported that they do not feel adequately prepared to care for individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

Access to training opportunities or traditional CME can be a challenge, especially for rural and frontier communities

- Limited time away from clinical responsibilities for full day trainings
- Travel often necessary
- Online CME reduce 1:1 instruction and interaction
- Costs

Innovative models of education and care are needed

- Access to quality dementia care is limited by geographic, physical and psychological barriers contributing to health disparities
- Telemedicine and Telehealth can promote equitable access to diagnosis and care and to support caregivers
 - Still may require some improvements: technology, cost, maximizing the experience for older adults who need to be able to see, hear, and understand the visit, etc.

WHAT IS PROJECT ECHO®:

EXTENSION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE OUTCOMES

- Began in 2003, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center
- “Telementoring” to build workforce capacity (virtual sessions that combine case-based learning with presentations from expert panel)
- Themes: “The right care at the right time in the right place” and “All teach, all learn”
- Impact:
 - Increased access to specialty care for all, ↓ disparities
 - Consistency in practice,
 - Increased knowledge & confidence
 - Reduced role isolation
 - Rapid dissemination

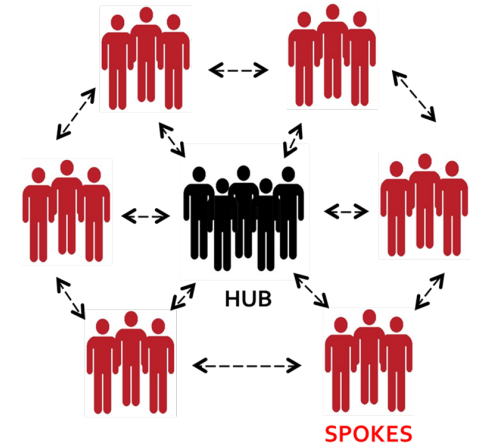


Image courtesy of: Project ECHO®
echo.unm.edu

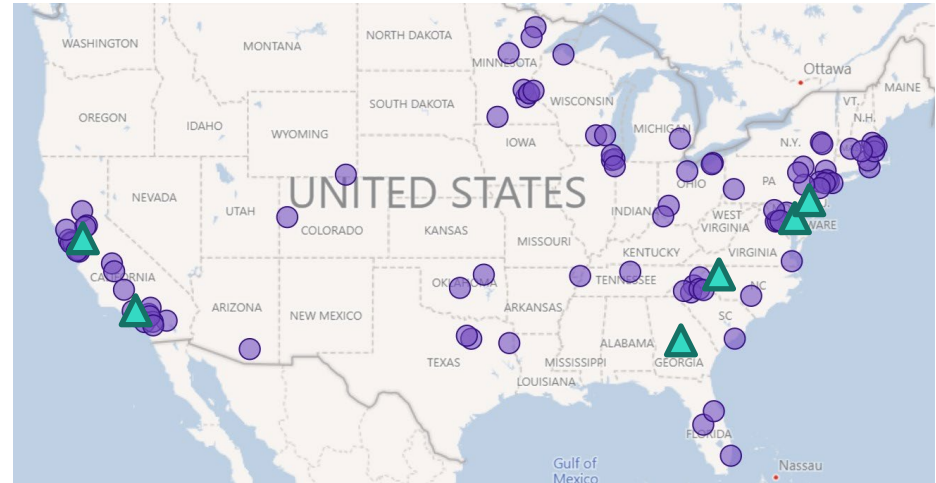
Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO: Alzheimer's Association

- Two programs launched in 2018:
 - Long-term care (assisted living and nursing home)
 - Primary care practices
- Cohort-based / national reach
- Participants are care teams
- No cost to join / No cost CME
- Goals are to increase access to timely detection, diagnosis and quality care



Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO: Primary Care

- New partnerships expanded reach: UCSF, UCLA, GWEP
- Launched eighth nationwide cohort in March 2023
- Georgia, Southern CA, and North Carolina, and DC regional series in 2022
- **130 primary care practices and nearly 350 providers completed training**



● Primary care practice locations since 2018

▲ New ECHO partnerships

Primary Care Impact

Made changes to the way they care for patients

Their quality of care improved



Nearly all or all have said:

information has been valuable in their work, shared information they learned, positively influenced interactions with families and caregivers

Feedback



86% expressed increased job satisfaction after participating in the the Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Primary Care ECHO

"I learned a great deal and am using the skills and knowledge from this training with caregivers and patients."



"The codes were a new thing. I find it very interesting about encouraging early testing and things to look for."

"I always have at least 1 if not more really good takeaways, or an "I did not even think about that" moment..."

"When the faculty said "run toward the diagnosis"...that really hit home for me and is something we don't typically do. That is changing through education and experience (especially this series)."



"The case studies and discussion that followed gave us great insight, inspired us with new solutions and reinforced our belief that cognitive assessment should be treated as a vital sign."

Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO Global Collaborative

Launched in 2020



16 programs

currently
active



10 programs

planning



4

continents

Goals:

1. Increase use of ECHO for dementia care
2. Increase evidence around the use of ECHO for dementia care
3. Increase policy and funding support for ECHO dementia

Upcoming ECHO opportunities

Alzheimer's and Dementia Care National Primary Care ECHO (Alzheimer's Association Flagship Program)

When: Thursdays beginning September 21, 2023 until February 29, 2024 from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm CT

UCLA ADC/Alzheimer's Association ECHO Program

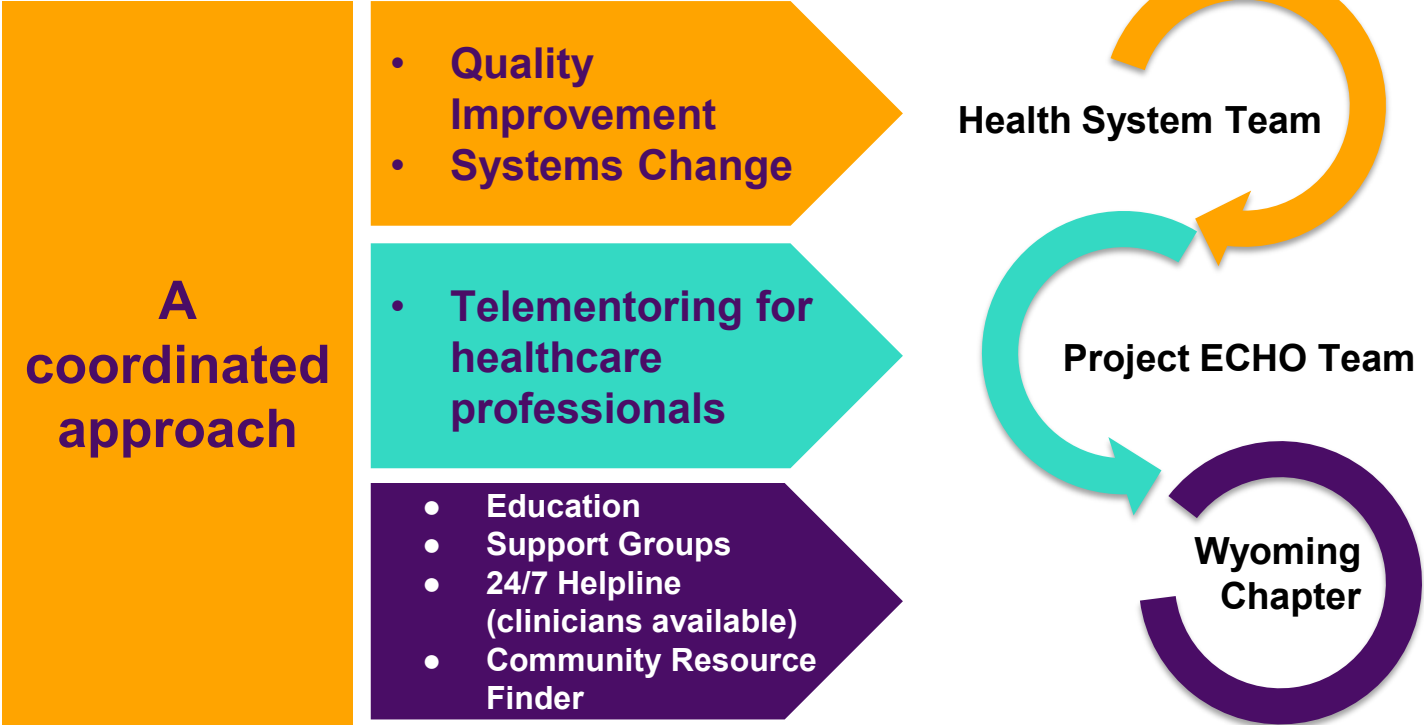
When: Wednesdays beginning October 11, 2023 until March 27, 2024 from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm PT

Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO Program for Primary Care: Identifying and Assessing for Dementia (Pilot Series)

When: Wednesdays, beginning October 18th from 12:00 pm-1:00 pm ET (4 sessions)

and, Promotion of other ECHO Dementia Programs through ECHO Collaborative

Support from the Alzheimer's Association



Connect with us!

Alzheimer's Disease Doesn't Stop — and Neither Do We

Debra Antista-Bianchi, MPH, MS

Executive Director, Wyoming Chapter

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Website: <https://alz.org/wyoming>

Danelle Hubbard BSW, MA

Director of Health Systems: Region 4
(Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Montana, and New Mexico)

Office: 720.699.9277

Email: dhubbard@alz.org



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Thank you!

Dana Sohmer
dasohmer@alz.org

ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION®



Wyoming Telehealth Consortium

August 2023 Agenda

Date: August 29, 2023

Time: 3:00pm – 4:30pm MDT

Location: Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/371954998>

Agenda Item

Lead/Facilitator

Meeting Agenda

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and Announcements	Dr. Johnson , Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Old Business:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Committee updates<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Finance Committee<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Workplan Progressii. Strategic Partners and Outreach Committee<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Cigna Presentation▪ Advanced Care Planningiii. Steering Committee<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Strategic planning meeting on Friday, September 29th from 12:00pm-4:00pm.	Dr. Johnson , Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director Faith Jones , Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair, Director of Care Coordination and Lean Consultant, HealthTechS3 Tom Lacock , Strategic Partners and Outreach Committee Co-Chair, Associate Staff Director, AARP Wyoming
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Business<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Personal Telehealth Experiences (Educational Session)	Briane Olson , Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, Private Practice
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Telehealth Awareness Week Update<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Save the Date! The American Telemedicine Association's (ATA) 3rd annual Telehealth Awareness Week, taking place September 17-23, 2023.2. Governor's Proclamation Signing acknowledging Telehealth Awareness Week in Wyoming will be	Tai Baker , Secretary, Program Manager, WyTN

<p>held on Wednesday, September 6th 2023 at 3:00pm MT. Meet members of the Consortium on the steps of the Wyoming State Capitol at 2:40 to attend the proclamation together.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adjournment<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Next month's Consortium will take place at 2:00pm on September 26th. Senator Lummis will present on the SELECT Act.	<p>Dr. Johnson, Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director</p>

Wyoming Telehealth Consortium

August 2023 Session Minutes

Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2023

Time: 3:00pm – 4:00pm MST

Location: <https://zoom.us/j/371954998>

Attendees:

1. **Amy Surdam** (Chief Operations Officer, InstaClinic)
2. **Andrea Shipley** (Regional Coordinator, Wyoming Center on Aging)
3. **Briane Olson** (Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, The Art of Telepsychiatry)
4. **Brittany Brigham** (Project Coordinator, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
5. **Canyon Hardesty** (Assistant Director, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
6. **Carissa Gemaehlich** (Public Policy Manager, Alzheimer’s Association)
7. **Claire Hurley** (President of the American Telemedicine Connect Consortium)
8. **Deb Anderson** (Health Information Technology Consultant, Mountain Pacific Quality Health)
9. **Debra Antista Bianchi** (Executive Director, Alzheimer’s Association Wyoming Chapter)
10. **Dustin Brown** (Director, Wyoming Project Aware)
11. **Emily Genoff** (Director of Business Development, Wyoming Behavioral Institute)
12. **Faith Jones** (Director of Care Coordination and Lean Consultant, HealthTechS3)
13. **Jan Cartwright** (HIE Chair)
14. **Jeffrey Dockter** (Systems Supervisor, State of Wyoming Enterprise Technology Services)
15. **Kathleen McMahan** (Provider Relations Manager, Cigna)
16. **Kevin Bohnenblust** (Executive Director, Wyoming Board of Medicine)
17. **Maribel Frank** (Director, Regional Telehealth Operations, Banner Health)
18. **Megan Hansen** (Data and Health Informatics Manager, Wyoming Primary Care Association)
19. **Michelle Hilaire** (Associate Dean of Student Affairs, University of Wyoming)
20. **Paul Johnson** (Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director, State of Wyoming)
21. **Rex Gantenbein** (Board of Trustees Chair for Ivinson Memorial Hospital)
22. **Sharon Weber** (Office of Rural Health Manager, Wyoming Department of Health)
23. **Sarah Compton** (Telehealth Director, OneHealth)
24. **Tai Baker** (Program Manager, Wyoming Telehealth Network)
25. **Thomas Smoll** (Executive Director, University of Wyoming Family Clinics)
26. **Tom Lacock** (Associate State Director, AARP Wyoming)

Facilitator: Dr. Paul Johnson

Minutes: Brittany Brigham

<p>Welcome and Announcements Dr. Paul Johnson, Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome!• Senator Cynthia Lummis will be joining us for next month’s Consortium on September 26 at 2:00pm. She is co-sponsoring a bill called the SELECT Act regarding rural telehealth usage.
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<p>Telehealth Awareness Week Update Tai Baker, Secretary, Program Manager, WyTN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save the Date! The American Telemedicine Association’s (ATA) 3rd annual Telehealth Awareness Week (TAW), taking place September 17-23, 2023. • TAW provides a special opportunity to spotlight the many ways telehealth improves access to quality healthcare to all Wyomingites. We strongly encourage all Wyoming Telehealth Consortium members and their organizations to join the American Telemedicine Association in amplifying the messages that “Telehealth. Is. Health” in addition to attending the proclamation signing. • Please take effort in accessing and utilizing the resources of the 2023 social media toolkit designed by the ATA to show your support for Telehealth Awareness Week – specifically leading up to and during the week! The toolkit includes graphics, content templates for posts, and guidance: https://telehealthawareness.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Telehealth-Awareness-Week-2023-Social-Media-Toolkit.pdf • Plan to meet us at the steps of the Wyoming State Capitol Building to witness and show support to telehealth in Wyoming as Governor Gordon signs a proclamation acknowledging the celebrate the 3rd annual Telehealth Awareness Week. The signing will take place at 3:00 pm MT, the group will head into the Capitol and the signing chambers at 2:50 pm.
<p>Finance Committee Update Faith Jones, Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair, Director of Care Coordination and Lean Consultant, HealthTech</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to go through the committee workplan.
<p>Steering Committee Update Dr. Paul Johnson, Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Strategic Planning meeting will be taking place on Friday, September 29th from 12:00pm – 4:00pm.
<p>SPOC Committee Updates Tom Lacock, Strategic Partners and Outreach Committee Co-Chair, Associate Staff Director, AARP Wyoming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asked a number of private telehealth payors for data to help us understand our baseline numbers in the state. • Two have responded so far: Cigna and Mountain States Co-Op. • Key Takeaways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Telehealth visits have gone down since COVID. ○ Average age of someone using telehealth is 41-42. ○ Majority of telehealth users are women. • Digital Access Plan: State Broadband office released its digital access plan about a month ago.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state is receiving funding for the affordability and availability of broadband. The state has to produce a plan to make sure certain populations aren't being left behind. They are looking for someone to help them increase the telehealth skills of providers and the general public. This is something we could look into to see how we can help. • Maybe contract with someone to help do some trainings? Could we work with some consulting groups in the state to send them out and do some trainings? Recommend going places where people already are such as nursing homes. AARP has worked with a group called OATS and they will be doing some trainings around the state of Wyoming as well.
<p>Personal Telehealth Experiences (Educational Session) Briane Olson, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, Private Practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briane shared her professional experiences as a psychiatric nurse practitioner in private practice who offers telehealth services. Briane is looking for advice on how she can reach people who need help in Wyoming. • Briane's email address is brianeolson@theartofpsychiatry.com for anyone who would like to reach out with ideas. • Briane has a physical location in Wyoming. Angela Neff has allowed her to join her group practice. • Consortium advice for Briane: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Look into payors such as Optum, Cigna, etc. Make sure your contact information is listed on their websites. Call the provider relations contact if not. ○ Speak to practices and let them know you exist. Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC's) would be a great place to start. There is one in Casper, Cheyenne, Riverton, Lander, and more. ○ Reach out to Dr. Johnson for assistance if needed (paul.johnson@wyo.gov). ○ Link from Deb Anderson: https://www.wypca.org/casper ○ Link from Dr. Johnson: https://albanycommunityhealthclinic.com/ ○ Sharon Weber will do some email introductions for Briane. ○ Consider working with the Board of Education. ○ Work with the care coordinators in the state of Wyoming.
<p>Adjournment Dr. Paul Johnson, Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be sure to come to the proclamation signing on September 6th at the Capitol! • Our next Consortium will take place at 2:00 next month to accommodate Senator Lummis' schedule. We hope to see you there!

Next Meeting: September 26, 2023 (2:00pm – 3:30pm)

IMPLEMENTING TELEPSYCHIATRY IN WY

The Art of
TELE -
PSYCHIATRY



Briane Olson

Psychiatric Mental Health
Nurse Practitioner

brianeolson@theartofpsychiatry.com



OBJECTIVES

- **Communicate challenges in implementing telepsychiatry in Wyoming using SWOT format.**
- **Gain feedback regarding overcoming barriers and building successful telehealth practices through collaboration.**
- **Set up format for future Consortium meeting Educational/Spotlight features to establish a process for identifying common threads.**
- **Ignite collective insights to increase efficiency of dissemination of telehealth service availability with a goal of improving overall health of WY residents through telehealth utilization.**

WHAT WILL I DO NEXT?

Where can I improve?

How can I overcome barriers & challenges in implementing telepsychiatry in Wyoming?

Are there avenues to build successful telehealth practices?



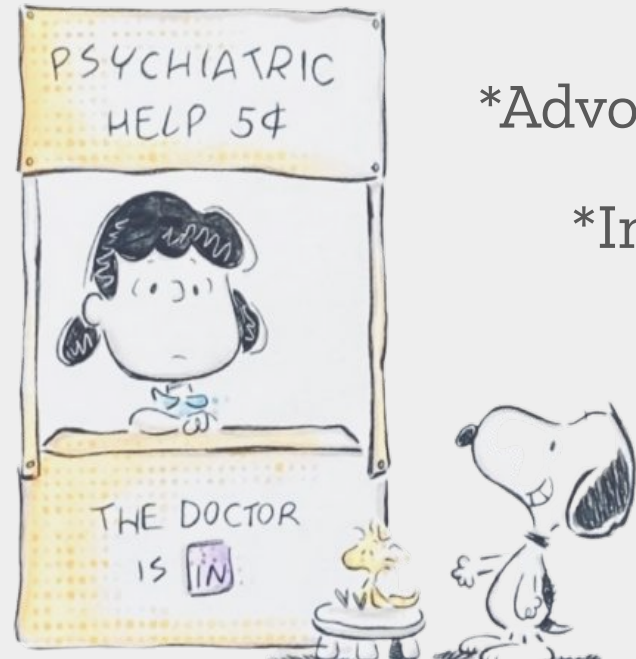
WHY I CHOSE THIS FIELD:

*Creativity and Art *Determination and Fortitude
*Social Justice & Equity

*Advocacy *Meaningfulness *Compassion *Support

*Intellectual and Emotional challenges *Skill
Building and Learning

*Discretion *Respect *Dignity *Health



What is Telepsychiatry

“using telecommunications technologies to support the delivery of all kinds of medical, diagnostic and treatment-related services usually by medical professionals”. -Federal Communications Commission

Includes Use of Videoconferencing and Other Technologies in Mental Health Care Delivery



RESEARCH

Tele-behavioral health delivery has been around since:
1959 University of Nebraska

Creates access to services

Great long term data tells us it is effective. New pandemic era data amplifies this information.

Ever heard of a bedside manner? How about a screenside manner?

POLLING QUESTION:

How many times do you use telehealth in your workplace each week?

A. 0-10

B. 10-50

C. 50-99

D. >100

ENGAGEMENT QUESTION:

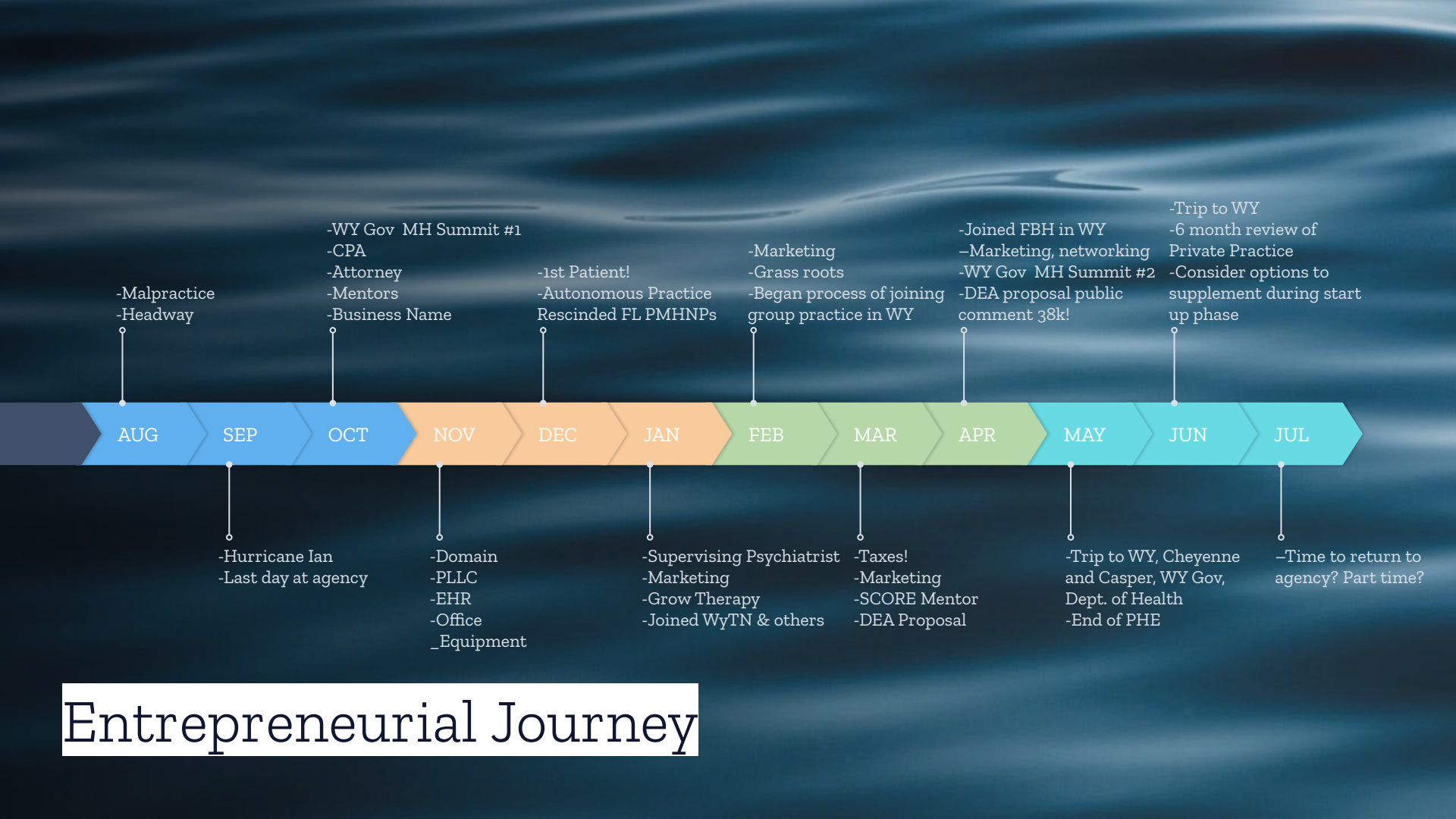
How many Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners hold active Wyoming licenses?

A. 0-40

B. 40-100

C. 100-200

D. >200



- Malpractice
- Headway

AUG

- Hurricane Ian
- Last day at agency

SEP

- WY Gov MH Summit #1
- CPA
- Attorney
- Mentors
- Business Name

OCT

- Domain
- PLLC
- EHR
- Office
- _Equipment

NOV

- 1st Patient!
- Autonomous Practice
- Rescinded FL PMHNPs

DEC

- Supervising Psychiatrist
- Marketing
- Grow Therapy
- Joined WyTN & others

JAN

- Marketing
- Grass roots
- Began process of joining group practice in WY

FEB

- Taxes!
- Marketing
- SCORE Mentor
- DEA Proposal

MAR

- Joined FBH in WY
- Marketing, networking
- WY Gov MH Summit #2
- DEA proposal public comment 38k!

APR

- Trip to WY, Cheyenne and Casper, WY Gov, Dept. of Health
- End of PHE

MAY

- Trip to WY
- 6 month review of Private Practice
- Consider options to supplement during start up phase

JUN

- Time to return to agency? Part time?

JUL

Entrepreneurial Journey

A close-up photograph of two hands shaking, symbolizing agreement or partnership. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with the fingers interlaced. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

WHERE ART & SCIENCE MEET

**Can empathy be conveyed
through technology?**

- What my practice does:
- Outpatient psychiatric services
- Psychiatric Evaluations (Diagnostics and treatment planning)
- Psychiatric Medication Management (prescribing, monitoring, referrals)
- Limited psychotherapy options
- Pharmacogenomic testing
- Professional collaboration
- Consulting Services
- Community outreach, volunteering, networking

THE PROBLEM OR CHALLENGE

- Where are my patients?
- How can I help them find me?
- What is the best way to support my colleagues from a distance?
- If there is such a critical need for psychiatry, and I'm accepting Medicare and WY Medicaid, then why isn't my practice filling?

ENGAGEMENT QUESTION:

What's the most creative workaround you've used for a poor internet connection during a telehealth session?"

A. Hotspot from your phone

B. Moving closer to the router

C. Waving your arms in the air for better signal (it works, right?)

D. Praying for a stable connection

Area in Sq.Miles: ~97,088

WY Population: ~581,381

wy: 9th, least, 23, 80 < 4K

WY:

8TH, 5TH

& TOP 5

#8 Forbes Worst States For Mental Health Care 2023
Wyoming: fifth worst in the nation for three of the metrics that we considered: Percentage of adults with any mental illness who did not receive mental health treatment in the past year (61.7%),

percentage of adults with any mental illness who are uninsured (18%) and percentage of children with private health insurance that doesn't cover mental or emotional problems (12.7%).

Wyoming is home to the eighth highest percentage of adults with a cognitive disability who could not see a doctor in the past 12 months due to cost (32.94%).



Florida and Wyoming are in the top five list of the most expensive states for health insurance, based on Forbes Advisor's analysis of health insurance costs by state.

Psychiatrists: ~325

WY Psychiatrists: 49

WY PMHNPs : 207:

Whoa! Does this data surprise you? How do these number compare to WY population?

SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS

What are you doing well?

What sets you apart?

What are your good qualities?

S

WEAKNESSES

Where do you need to improve?

Are resources adequate?

What do others do better?

W

What are your goals?

Are demands shifting?

How can it be improved?

OPPORTUNITIES

O

What are the blockers you're facing?

What are factors outside of your control?

THREATS

T

STRENGTHS

- High utilization in data (≥ 1 telemedicine visit/month)
- Supportive experienced mentors and supervising psychiatrist, exclusive relationships
- Unique Skill Set- board certified, psychopharmacology CEs
- Pioneering DEA qualified telehealth referral document
- Willingness to network, outgoing, seeking
- Deep knowledge of WY rural barriers to MH care
- Long term WY resident and MH nurse
- Joined WY group practice
- 10+ yrs tele experience
- Autonomy, Schedule convenience
- Cost Effectiveness
- Self employed=burn out protection
- Strong boundary setting skills
- Patient convenience
- Endorsements from local providers
- Initially capitalized, budget conscious, bookkeeping savvy
- Personal and entrepreneurial growth
- Shortage of prescribers, psychiatrists leaving/retiring nationally.



WEAKNESSES

- Patient reluctance
- “you don’t take my insurance”
- “why can’t I just see you in person?”
- Paperwork, digital signatures
- Increased Provider burden

- Distribution of services is state limited
- Need updated knowledge and dexterity with WY Law
- No staff, no on site distance staff
- New, unknown entity, trust with stakeholders not yet established

- Expenses
- Advertising costs
- No SEO, no social media, weak digital presence
- Technology dexterity and set up burden
- Cash flow/revenue problems
- Low caseload
- Stagnant growth

- Being remote decreases face-to-face grassroots marketing and networking opportunities
- Inability to organically discover

- Translate in-person skills into ‘telepresence’ feeling physically present in tele mediated environment
- Clinicians may fear adverse effects or risks for patients
- Concerns about engagement, therapeutic rapport, how they project empathy via synchronous audio video conferences.
- Provider burden in conveying comfort
- Personal organization and productivity may dwindle due to self employed
- Misunderstandings regarding who bills what in care coordination collaborative arrangements.

THREATS

**-End of PHE ,
policy changes**

**-Market
saturation**

**-Delayed decision
making/innovation**

**-Relyance on tele
clients**

**-Required
in-person visits**

**-Reimbursement
barriers**

-Technology barriers

**-Patient discomfort
with technology**

**-Data collection,
security, and
electronic health
records**

**-Distance
demotes top
of mind and
familiarity
with locals**

**-Cost of state
Lic & DEA regs
- Cost of
Advertising,
Travel, Billing
Companies**

**-Navigating
aspects of hybrid
models:
temporary office
space**

OPPORTUNITIES

A pair of hands is shown holding a pair of glasses. The hands are positioned as if they are about to put the glasses on or have just taken them off. The background is a soft, light blue gradient. The glasses have thin, gold-colored frames. The overall image conveys a sense of vision, clarity, and opportunity.

- Fill gap in telepsychiatry
- Bring information to legislators
- Different models
- Consulting
- Partnerships with Other Healthcare Providers
- Need updated data
- Increasing Demand for Mental Health Services
- BON, BOM, BOP, professional organization partnerships
- Traffic
- Patient stories
- Staff on site
- Website and digital presence improvement
- Targeting Niche Markets
- Expansion

ENGAGEMENT QUESTION:

If you could have a superpower to address one challenge in rural telehealth, what would it be?

A) Instantly solving internet connectivity issues

B) Teleporting to rural locations for in-person consultations

C) Ensuring all patients have access to necessary technology

D) Eradicating any billing and reimbursement complications



WHAT WILL I DO NEXT?

What are effective ways to connect with patients and colleagues as a telehealth provider?

Do you think there is a need for tele-psychiatry in Wyoming?



Questions & Answers

Any personal experiences or challenges you've encountered related to telehealth?and orange.

Are there any innovative approaches that could be applicable?

What are some common misconceptions or myths you've come across? How can we address them?

What about potential collaborations or partnerships that could enhance the implementation?

What are some specific concerns or barriers you foresee in implementing telehealth in your work setting?

Key priority areas of focus?

ADVICE?

How can we support each other? Why is it so difficult to break into organizations, and what impedes innovation.

What data should be collected for legislators? What do we do to make sure other people have successful telehealth practices?

How to overcome barriers and paralysis, and ignite cascades of resource awareness.

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- <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/WY>
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- <https://nrtrc.org/education/webinars.php>



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- <https://www.fcc.gov/general/telehealth-telemedicine-and-telecare-whats-whats#:~:text=Telemedicine%3F%20%2D%20Telemedicine%20can%20be%20defined,related%20services%20usually%20by%20doctors.>
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IMPLEMENTING TELEPSYCHIATRY IN WY

The Art of
TELE -
PSYCHIATRY



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Wyoming Telehealth Consortium

September 2023 Agenda

Date: September 26, 2023

Time: 2:00pm – 3:30pm MDT

Location: Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/371954998>

Agenda Item

Lead/Facilitator

Meeting Agenda

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and Announcements<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 2023 Excellence in Telehealth Award Recipient	Dr. Johnson , Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Old Business:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Committee updates<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Finance Committee<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Workplan Progressii. Strategic Partners and Outreach Committeeiii. Steering Committee<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Strategic planning meeting on Friday, September 29th from 12:00pm-4:00pm.	Dr. Johnson , Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director Faith Jones , Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair, Director of Care Coordination and Lean Consultant, HealthTechS3 Tom Lacock , Strategic Partners and Outreach Committee Co-Chair, Associate Staff Director, AARP Wyoming
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Business<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Broadband Efforts in Wyoming (Educational Session)	Aimee Meacham , Director of State Broadband Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adjournment	Dr. Johnson , Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director

Wyoming Telehealth Consortium

September 2023 Session Minutes

Date: Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Time: 2:00pm – 3:00pm MST

Location: <https://zoom.us/j/371954998>

Attendees:

1. **Aimee Meacham** (Director of State Broadband Programs, CTC Technology & Energy)
2. **Ann Howard** (Program Director, Health Information Technology Management, LCCC)
3. **Briane Olson** (Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, The Art of Telepsychiatry)
4. **Brittany Brigham** (Project Coordinator, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
5. **Canyon Hardesty** (Assistant Director, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
6. **Carissa Gemaehlich** (Public Policy Manager, Alzheimer’s Association)
7. **Deb Anderson** (Health Information Technology Consultant, Mountain Pacific Quality Health)
8. **Elaina Zempel** (Broadband Manager, Wyoming Business Council)
9. **Emily Genoff** (Director of Business Development, Wyoming Behavioral Institute)
10. **Eric Boley** (President of the Wyoming Hospital Association)
11. **Faith Jones** (Director of Care Coordination and Lean Consultant, HealthTechS3)
12. **Jeffrey Dockter** (Systems Supervisor, State of Wyoming Enterprise Technology Services)
13. **Lisa Finkelstein** (Medical Director of Telehealth, St. John’s Medical Center)
14. **Maribel Frank** (Director, Regional Telehealth Operations, Banner Health)
15. **Megan Selheim** (Young and Youth Adult Program Manager, Wyoming Department of Health)
16. **Michelle Hilaire** (Associate Dean of Student Affairs, University of Wyoming)
17. **Paul Johnson** (Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director, State of Wyoming)
18. **Rebekah Muros** (Project Coordinator, CTC Technology & Energy)
19. **Rex Gantenbein** (Board of Trustees Chair for Iverson Memorial Hospital)
20. **Sandra Root-Elledge** (Executive Director, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
21. **Tai Baker** (Program Manager, Wyoming Telehealth Network)

Facilitator: Dr. Paul Johnson

Minutes: Brittany Brigham

Welcome and Announcements Dr. Paul Johnson, Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Lisa Finkelstein was the 2023 Excellence in Telehealth Award recipient.• Dr. James Bush was selected as the Wyoming Medical Society Physician of the Year.• Faith Jones is receiving the Alumna of the Year award from the University of Wyoming School of Nursing this Friday.• Congratulations to these amazing people we work with!
Finance Committee Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Finance Committee minutes are stored on the Consortium Google drive if anyone would like to read them.

<p>Faith Jones, Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair, Director of Care Coordination and Lean Consultant, HealthTech</p>	
<p>Steering Committee Update Dr. Paul Johnson, Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Strategic Planning meeting will be taking place on Friday, September 29th from 12:00pm – 4:00pm in Laramie. • Will focus on what this committee’s goals are and actionable items that are measurable for the next one to three years. • Once this information is gathered a document will be disseminated in written form.
<p>Broadband Update (Educational Session) Aimee Meacham, Director of State Broadband Programs, CTC Technology & Energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of broadband efforts in the state of Wyoming was provided. • See the attached PowerPoint presentation for more information. • The Wyoming Broadband Office sends regular emails sharing updates about its broadband programs. You can sign up for these emails by filling out your email address on this Stay Informed form.
<p>Adjournment Dr. Paul Johnson, Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you, Aimee, for an excellent presentation! • See you all next month!

Next Meeting: October 31, 2023 (3:00pm – 4:30pm)



BROADBAND UPDATE

September 26, 2023

AGENDA



Introductions

Update on broadband grant programs & planning

Update on community engagement and input

Next steps: the Initial Proposal and Challenge Process

UPDATE ON FUNDING AND PLANNING

UPDATE: BROADBAND FUNDING PROGRAMS & PLANS



WBC is currently administering the Connect Wyoming 2 Grant Program, while also developing two plans – one for infrastructure & one for access programming – that will unlock additional federal funds

Connect Wyoming 2

Using funds from the Capital Projects Fund of the American Rescue Plan Act, WBC is conducting another grant cycle for broadband infrastructure funding

Aug. 22: Application period closed

Sep. 22 – Oct. 5: Challenge period

Broadband Equity, Access, & Deployment (BEAD) plans

A series of plans that will be submitted to the federal government to access Infrastructure Act funding for construction of new broadband infrastructure

Aug. 17: Five Year Action Plan submitted to federal gov't

Sept. 21: Initial Proposal VI public comment period closed

Statewide Digital Access Plan

A plan that will be submitted to the federal government to access funding for programs to help Wyoming households afford, adopt, & use broadband

Aug. 17: Public comment period closed

Mid-Sep.: Submit to federal gov't

UPDATE ON THE BEAD PROGRAM



In June, Wyoming was allocated \$348 million of federal BEAD funds that will become available following completion of the federal planning cycle.

Funds are prioritized for unserved locations first—those that cannot get internet service of 25/3 Mbps— & underserved second--those that can get internet service between 25/3 & 100/20 Mbps only.

WBC has submitted to the federal government the first of four BEAD plans, with others currently in preparation.

BEAD planning

2023

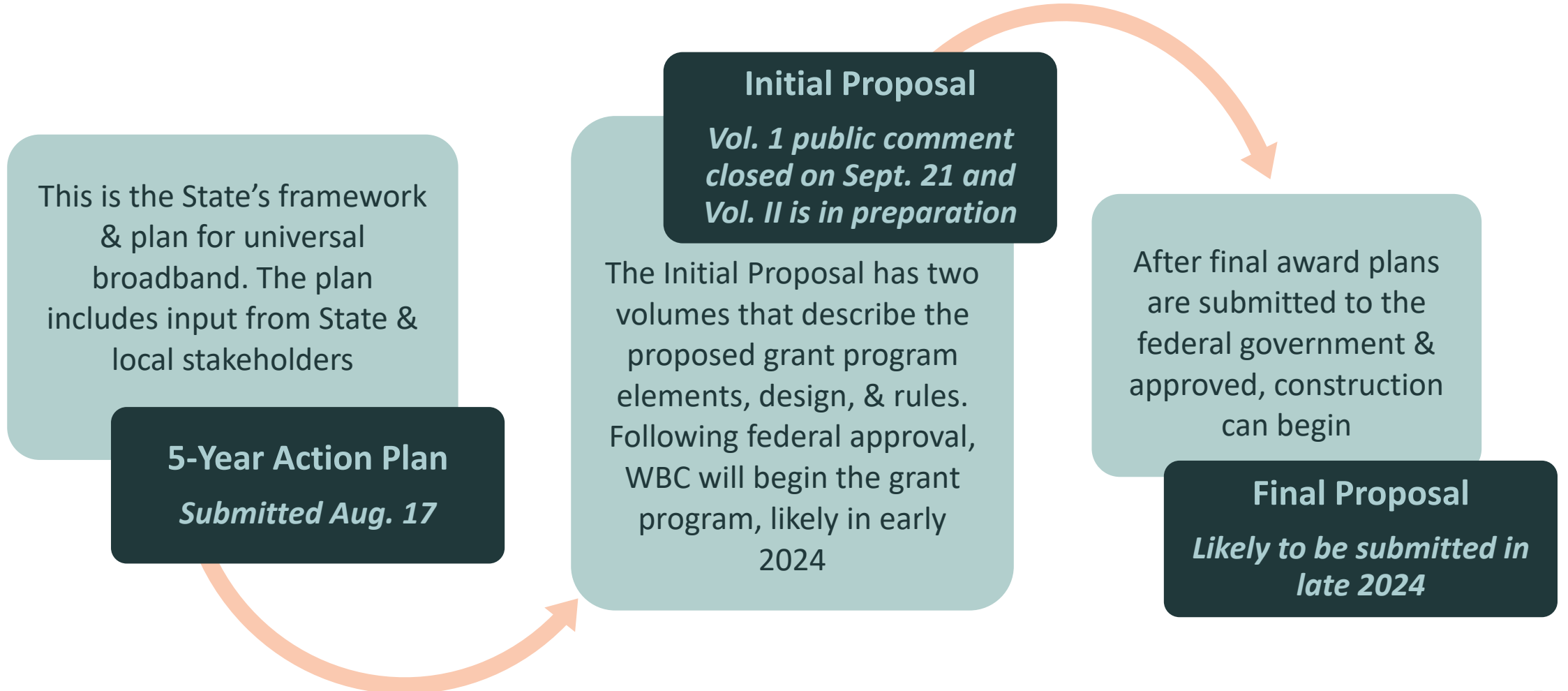
Provisional grant program

2024

Deployment

2025

BEAD PLAN STATUS



UPDATE ON THE DIGITAL ACCESS PLAN

WBC conducted extensive outreach to communities, Tribes, nonprofits, institutions, & the public

The draft plan was open for public comment in July & August & will be submitted to the federal government in September

Federal approval of the plan will be part of how the State accesses related federal funds next year



Elements of Digital Access

Broadband Access

Affordable, accessible, & reliable high-speed home internet service is available for all

Accessible & Inclusive Content

Public online content is inclusive & accessible

Devices & Tech Support

Individuals have access to a computer or tablet & technical support

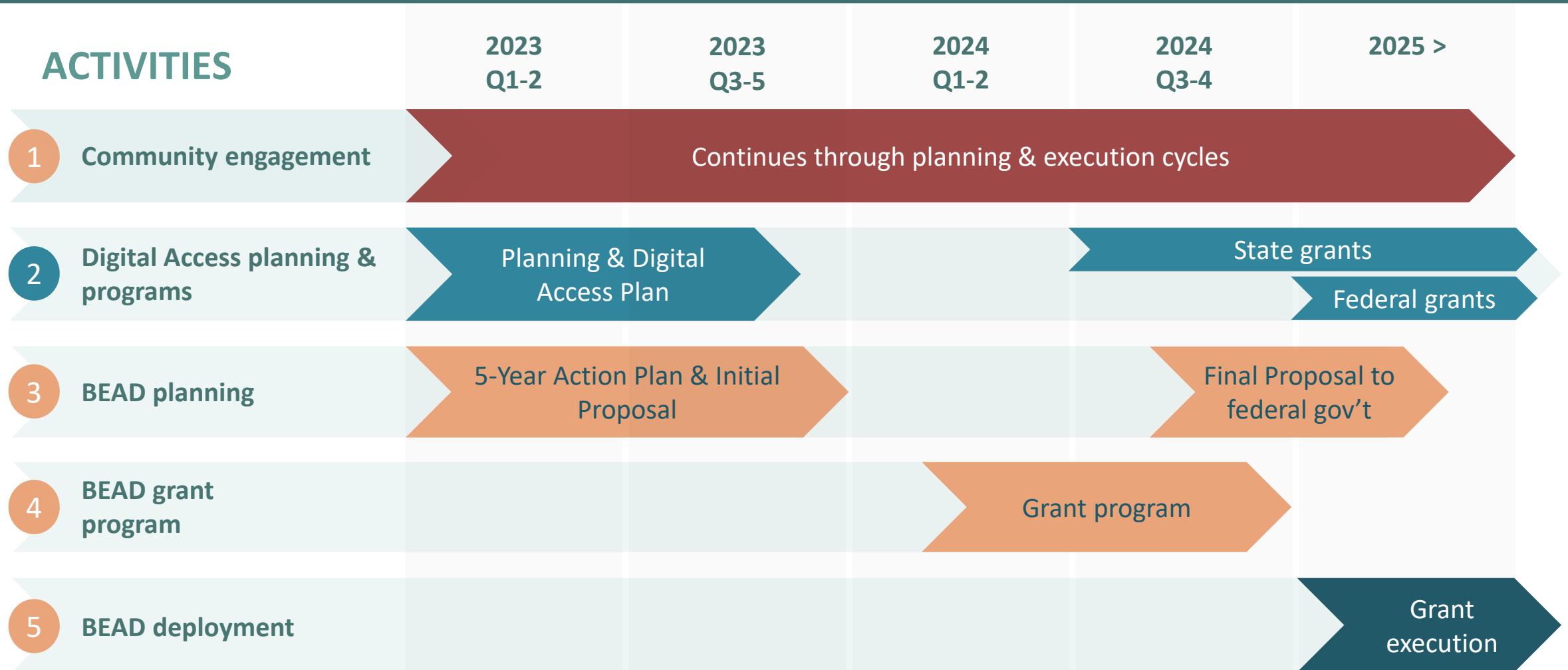
Privacy & Security

Individuals can protect their data privacy & online security

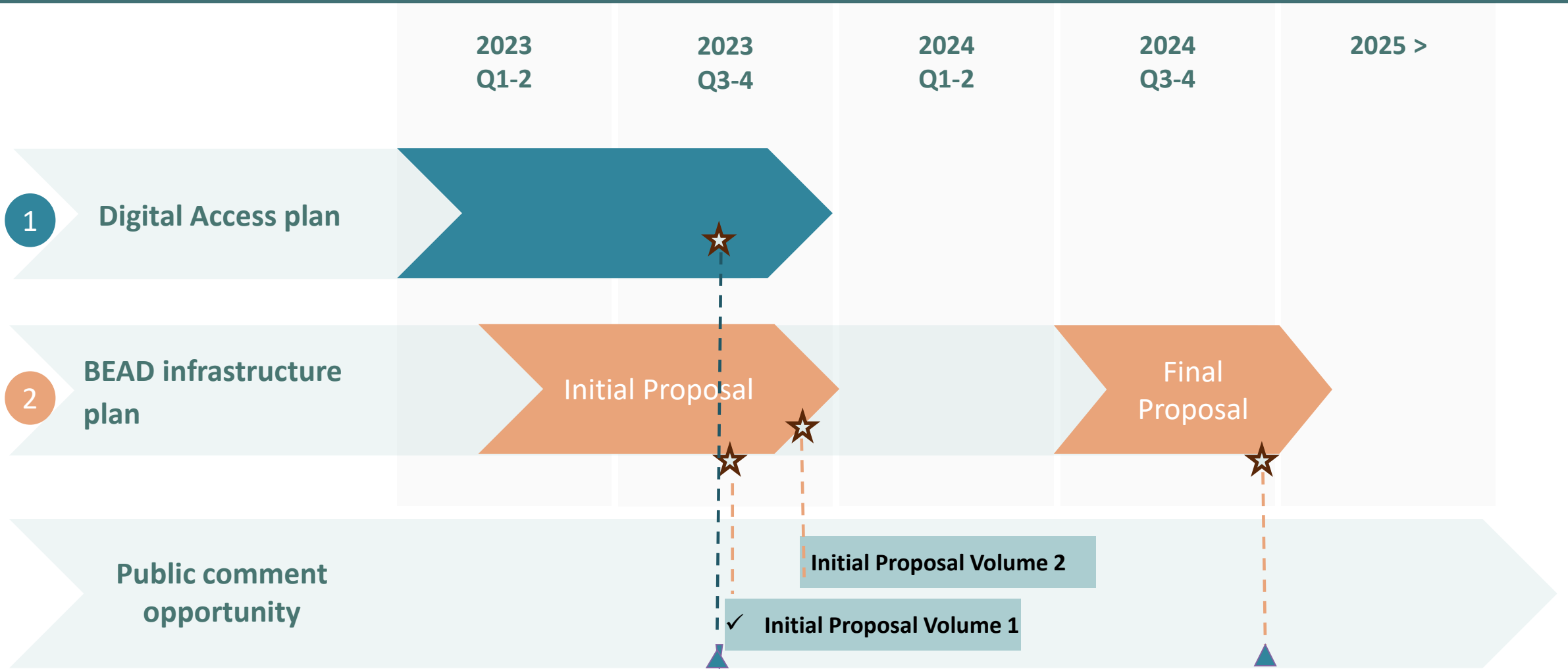
Digital Literacy and Skills

Individuals have skills to support their ability to meaningfully use the internet

BEAD & DIGITAL ACCESS OVERALL TIMELINE



PUBLIC COMMENT TIMELINE



UPDATE ON INPUT FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ONGOING ENGAGEMENT



2023 interactions to ensure stakeholder input...

- 8 statewide virtual facilitated sessions
- 15 in-person regional meetings
- 11 one-on-one meetings with State agencies and organizations
- 6 stakeholder asset and program inventories
- Numerous speaking engagements
- Public comments on Digital Access Plan and Initial Proposal Volume 1

...continues into '24 and '25 grant cycle

- One-on-one responsive meetings
- Targeted outreach
- Conferences and presentations
- Social media
- Statewide information sessions
- Public comment opportunities

FINDINGS & THEMES



Deployment

- Lack of reliable broadband access creates barriers for communities to achieve economic development goals
- The frontier nature of Wyoming creates an obstacle to deployment for many unserved and underserved locations
- Labor costs and shortages increase the challenge of expanding broadband in unserved areas

Affordability

- Broadband and satellite service is out of reach for some low-income Wyomingites
- Households must make difficult choices to afford and maintain broadband connectivity
- Growing and expanding device lending programs would support affordability

Digital Skills

- Multiple organizations across the state offer digital skills training but coordination and outreach would bring increased benefits
- Lack of transportation is a barrier for some households to participate in programs or access public devices
- A range of organizations are using their physical spaces in innovative ways to bring connectivity to their community

**NEXT
STEPS:**

**THE INITIAL
PROPOSAL AND
CHALLENGE
PROCESS PLAN**

INITIAL PROPOSAL



The initial proposal describes how WBC plans to administer the bead grant program

Initial Proposal Volume I

Currently being revised per public comment & then submitted to the federal government

- Describes how WBC will run a “challenge process” in 2024 to finalize the list of locations eligible for funding
- Describes how WBC has defined “community anchor institution” & lists those that lack service

Initial Proposal Volume II

Is currently in preparation & will be available for public comment in the fall

- Describes how WBC will structure the grant application & process, as well as the scoring criteria & rules for participation

INITIAL PROPOSAL VOLUME I: 4 KEY SECTIONS



Public comment closed September 20

Existing Broadband Funding

Current sources of federal and state funding to deploy broadband and close the digital divide in Wyoming

Unserved and Underserved Locations

How WBC developed lists of the locations that are unserved or underserved and thus eligible for BEAD-funded deployment

Community Anchor Institutions

Discussion of criteria used to identify CAIs that lack access to 1Gbps symmetrical services and a preliminary list of qualifying CAIs

Challenge Process

Rules to define a transparent and fair Challenge Process to meet the goals of the BEAD program

LOCATION CLASSIFICATIONS

1

Federal rules allow states to propose to change categories “served” locations to “underserved” if sufficient data exist for the wholesale change, thus moving the burden of proof from communities to ISPs to establish the correct status of those locations.

2

WBC proposes to “treat locations that the National Broadband Map shows to have available qualifying broadband service (i.e., a location that is “served”) delivered via DSL or Licensed-by-Rule (LBR) Terrestrial Fixed Wireless as “underserved,” thus requiring ISPs to submit challenges, with evidence, in order to have those locations show up as “served” on the FCC map. Current estimates indicate that this change will affect approximately 8,700 locations.

COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS



Federal rules require states to define “Community Anchor Institution” in the Initial Proposal and then develop a list of defined anchors that do not have symmetrical 1 Gbps service so that challenges can be filed in the BEAD challenge process next year.

WBC proposes to define this category to include:

- Schools
- Libraries
- Health care facilities
- Higher education
- Public housing organization
- Community support organization that facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations

STRUCTURE OF THE CHALLENGE PROCESS



Federal rules require states to allow challenges to the FCC map early in 2024 to make final determinations of the locations that will be eligible for BEAD grant funding.

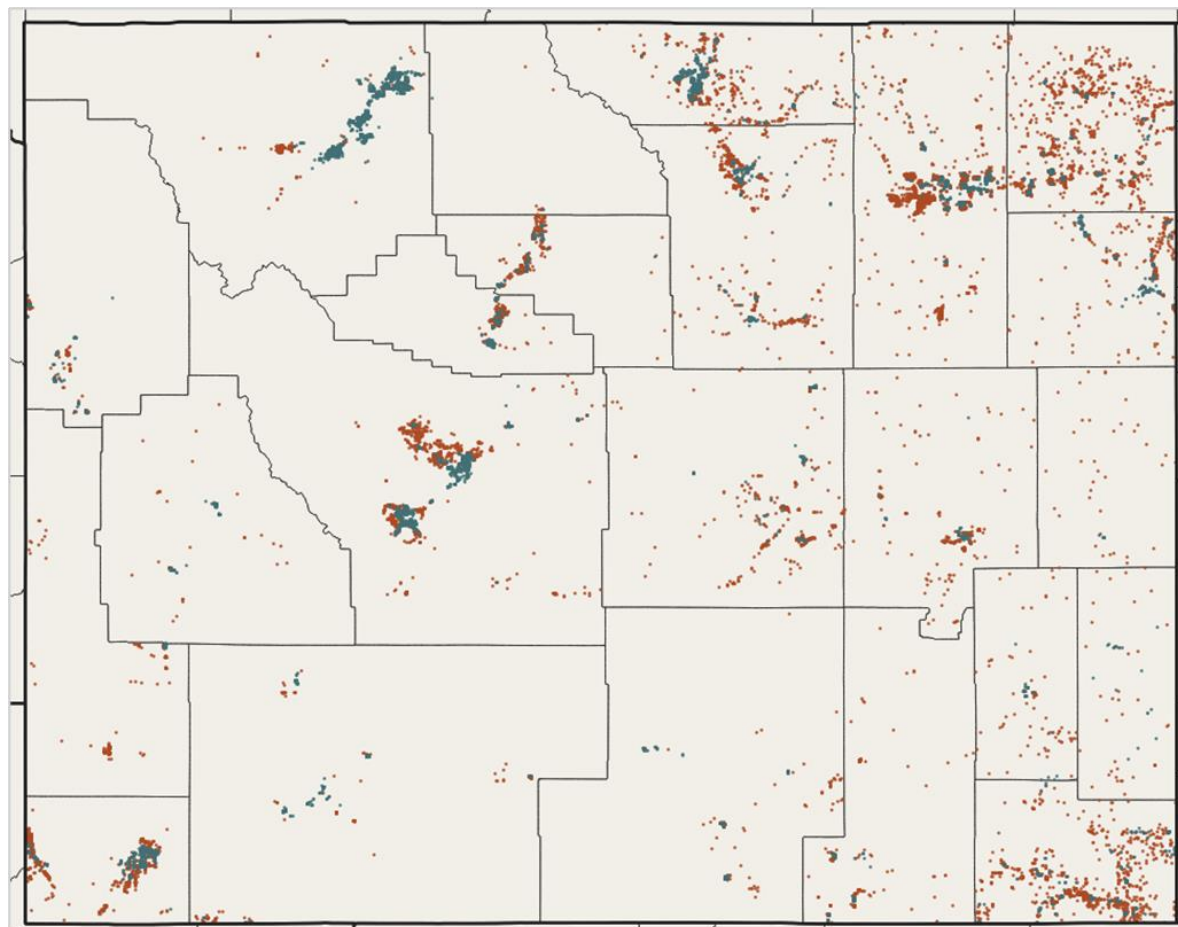
Who can challenge:

- Nonprofits
- ISPs
- Local and Tribal governments

Permissible challenges:

- Where an enforceable funding commitment exists
- Where service is planned
- Incorrectly classified locations as unserved or underserved
- Incorrectly identified and/or service determination for an anchor institution

PRELIMINARY MAP OF ELIGIBLE LOCATIONS



● Unserved locations ● Underserved locations

Wyoming has **22,458 unserved** and **12,044 underserved** Broadband Serviceable Locations.

Under federal rules, the FCC map will be the basis of determinations of what locations are eligible for BEAD funding.

WBC's challenge process will happen in early 2024.

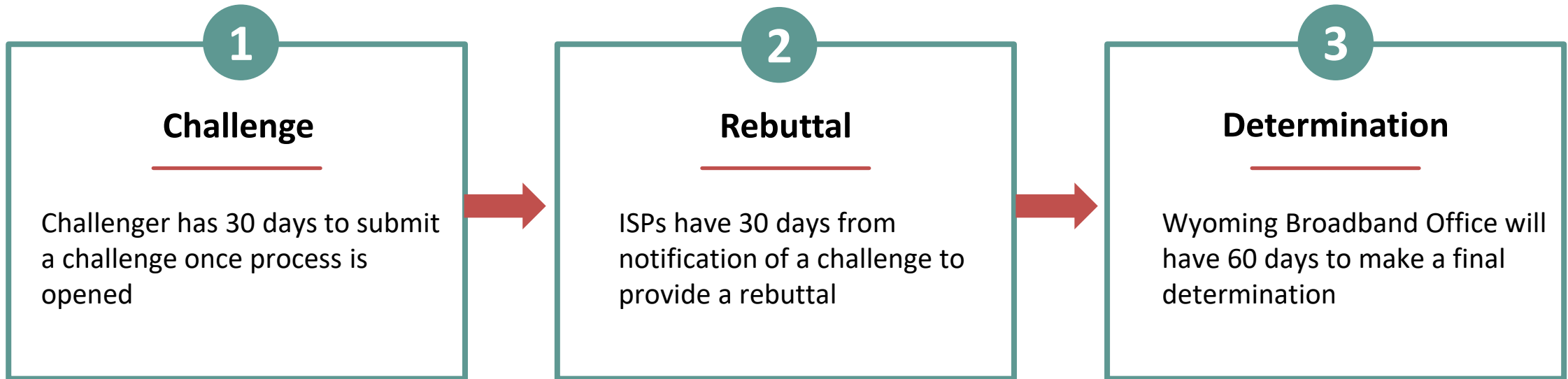
In the meantime, communities & the public can file challenges with the FCC to inaccurate map data; if filed soon, this will help improve the map for 2024 grant decisions.

<https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home>

WBC CHALLENGE PROCESS TIMELINE



The Challenge Process is expected to begin in January 2024, using an online portal



NTIA must approve the completed Challenge Process in Initial Proposal Volume I before the grant program can begin



CONNECT WITH US

Elaina Zempel, *Broadband Director*

307-777-2802

elaina.zempel@wyo.gov

wbc.pub/Broadband

Stay Informed: [Sign up here](#) for updates about the challenge process

Wyoming Telehealth Consortium

October 2023 Session Agenda

Date: Tuesday, October 31, 2023

Time: 3:00pm – 4:30pm MDT

Location: Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/371954998>

Agenda Item

Lead/Facilitator

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions 2. Announcements	Dr. Johnson , Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director
3. New Business i. <i>CONNECT for Health Act</i> Presentation ii. Q&A	U.S. Senator Cynthia Lummis State of Wyoming
4. Old Business: i. Committee Updates a) Finance Committee b) Strategic Partners and Outreach Committee c) Steering Committee Strategic Planning Meeting	Dr. Johnson , Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director Faith Jones , Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair, Director of Care Coordination and Lean Consultant, HealthTechS3 Tom Lacock , Strategic Partners and Outreach Committee Co-Chair, Associate Staff Director, AARP Wyoming
5. Adjournment	Dr. Johnson , Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director

Wyoming Telehealth Consortium

October 2023 Session Minutes

Date: Tuesday, October 31, 2023

Time: 3:00pm – 4:00pm MST

Location: <https://zoom.us/j/371954998>

Attendees:

1. **Allyson Lehr** (Master’s Social Work Intern at the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
2. **Amanda DeDiego** (Assistant Professor, University of Wyoming Counseling Program)
3. **Ann Howard** (Program Director, Health Information Technology Management, LCCC)
4. **Brittany Brigham** (Project Coordinator, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
5. **Canyon Hardesty** (Assistant Director, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
6. **Carissa Gemaehlich-Coursey** (Public Policy Manager, Alzheimer’s Association)
7. **Cythnia Lummis** (U.S. Senator)
8. **Deb Anderson** (Health Information Technology Consultant, Mountain Pacific Quality Health)
9. **Emily Genoff** (Director of Business Development, Wyoming Behavioral Institute)
10. **Eric Boley** (President of the Wyoming Hospital Association)
11. **Jacob Warren** (Dean of the College of Health Sciences, University of Wyoming)
12. **Jane Cramb** (Resource Database Supervisor, Wyoming 2-1-1)
13. **Kathleen McMahan** (Provider Relations Manager, Cigna)
14. **Linnea Melbye** (Legislative Assistant, Office of Senator Lummis)
15. **Lisa Finkelstein** (Medical Director of Telehealth, St. John’s Medical Center)
16. **Michelle Hilaire** (Associate Dean of Student Affairs, University of Wyoming)
17. **Morris McGaugh** (Director of Provider Networks, Mountain Health CO-OP)
18. **Paul Johnson** (Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director, State of Wyoming)
19. **Rex Gantenbein** (Board of Trustees Chair for Ivins Memorial Hospital)
20. **Robert Johnston** (Executive Director, Wyoming Health Council)
21. **Sabrina Lane**
22. **Sarah Compton** (Telehealth Director, OneHealth)
23. **Tai Baker** (Program Manager, Wyoming Telehealth Network)
24. **Tom Lacock** (Associate State Director, AARP Wyoming)
25. **Traci Blevins** (Telehealth Director, Wyoming Behavioral Institute)

Facilitator: Dr. Paul Johnson

Minutes: Brittany Brigham

Welcome and Introductions Dr. Paul Johnson, Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome, Senator Lummis!• Introductions including overview of the Wyoming Telehealth Consortium. Our purpose is to advance and support telehealth in the state of Wyoming.
CONNECT for Health Act Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The CONNECT Act is co-sponsored by Senator Lummis. It is bipartisan and would expand Medicare coverage of telehealth services and make permanent COVID-19 telehealth flexibilities.

<p>U.S. Senator Cynthia Lummis State of Wyoming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There's broad support for both from both Republicans and Democrats to advance a permanent telehealth policy. • Senator Lummis is on the Senate Commerce Committee and has made it a top priority to expand high speed broadband access, particularly in rural areas. • There is another act called Strengthening Telehealth and Education for Rural Communities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Senator Lummis is the lead Republican co-sponsor of this legislation that would reauthorize the distance learning and telemedicine grant program. ○ This is a USDA Rural Development grant that provides additional funding to tribal and rural communities that can be used to purchase or support video equipment, broadband facilities, computer hardware, instruction, and technical assistance. • The combination of having a more robust fiber optic network in Wyoming, grants to fill in gaps of service in rural areas, and the CONNECT for Health Act could help Wyoming build a much more robust telehealth infrastructure. • Question and Answer Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Question: Licensing across state lines continues to be an issue. What are your thoughts about the use case scenario for blockchain? Answer: There are some analogous use cases out there in existence that can help be a template for the practice of medicine. One example that is up and running is blockchain-based database of automobile titles. ○ Question: Where in the process is the CONNECT Act and the Strengthening Telehealth and Education for Communities legislation? Are they getting close to a vote? Are they in a committee? ○ Answer: The CONNECT Act is much further along and has 59 Senate Co-Sponsors. Certain parts of the bill are becoming law and the bill is constantly evolving every Congress. It's difficult to pass a comprehensive bill like that. The Strengthening Telehealth and Education for Rural Communities Act is co-sponsored by lead Democrat Jackie Rosen, and a potential vehicle that is being looked at to make this bill become law is potentially the Farm Bill, because this grant program does sit in the USDA Rural Development Program. • If anyone has any further questions, please contact Senator Lummis' office and email Linea Melby (linea_melby@lummus.senate.gov).
<p>Announcements Tai Baker, Secretary, Program Manager, WyTN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laramie County Community College (LCCC) Telehealth Coordinator Training Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 16-week course. This is the second year they will be offering it, beginning in January of 2024. ○ Self-paced with weekly instructor check-ins. ○ Currently open for registration. ○ The cost is \$599. Professionals can register and apply for the Wyoming Works Grant to get funding for this course.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contact Darlene Kaelin in Outreach and Workforce Development to register and pay for the course: 307-778-4381. ● Northwest Regional Telehealth Center (NRTRC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will be having their annual conference next spring in Seattle and have done a call for proposals in regards to posters and presentations. ○ Register today!
<p>Strategic Planning Dr. Paul Johnson, Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Three strategic priorities for 2024 were identified during the Steering Committee Strategic Planning meeting in September: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness of telehealth in Wyoming 2. Utilization 3. Structure for the Consortium ● Looking into potentially doing a tele doc and tele nurse of the day the legislature. ● Faith Jones is spearheading an RFI going out to community colleges and business departments to see if they want to make it a class project to come up with a campaign that will be used on at least social media, but maybe some print advertising as well. Also looking into securing some grant money for that. ● Advancing telehealth in nursing facilities could be really beneficial. Eric Boley is on the HIE/Wi Fi board and one of the priorities is to try and get as many nursing homes enrolled and signed up to use Wi Fi. ● It may be possible to request waivers for counting telehealth towards supervision of residents and other learning experiences. Can look into that. ● Podiatry is another high-need area. Eric will reach out to their podiatrist to ask about experience with telehealth or if would like to embark on a project maybe with the nursing facility in Laramie to see how it works. ● Some barriers where there could be advocacy efforts include the amount of funding that comes to support equipment costs. ● A question we should be asking ourselves instead of comparing in-person services directly to telehealth could be: How do we make things available, and what is the cost when we don't? ● Right now the Consortium's infrastructure is that it's in legislation to have a Consortium. But there is no tax ID, designation to being any type of non-profit or fiscal organization, so there is a question that if we wrote a grant for funding to come in, where would it actually go? ● There are options that are being looked into such as part of the Wyoming Department of Health, 501c3, etc.
<p>Action Items Dr. Paul Johnson, Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Keep us updated with the Wi Fi efforts in the nursing home facilities. ● Dean Warren will look into whether telehealth waivers are attainable. Will connect with Dr. Johnson and Dr. Robitaille.
<p>Adjournment Dr. Paul Johnson, Chair, Wyoming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our November Consortium meeting will be cancelled. Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 12 at 3:00pm to accommodate the holiday schedule.

Medicaid Medical Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• See you all in December!
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Next Meeting: December 12, 2023 (3:00pm – 4:00pm)

Wyoming Telehealth Consortium

December 2023 Session Agenda

Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Time: 3:00pm – 4:00pm MDT

Location: Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/371954998>

Agenda Item

Lead/Facilitator

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions 2. Announcements i. Telehealth Booths in Libraries	Dr. Johnson , Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director Tai Baker , Secretary, Program Manager, WyTN
3. New Business i. Wyoming 2-1-1 (Educational Session)	Jane Cramb Resource Database Supervisor
4. Old Business: i. Committee Updates a) Finance Committee b) Strategic Partners and Outreach Committee c) Steering Committee Strategic Planning Meeting	Faith Jones , Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair, Director of Care Coordination and Lean Consultant, HealthTechS3 Tom Lacock , Strategic Partners and Outreach Committee Co-Chair, Associate Staff Director, AARP Wyoming Dr. Johnson , Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director
5. Adjournment	Dr. Johnson , Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director

Wyoming Telehealth Consortium

December 2023 Session Minutes

Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Time: 3:00pm – 4:00pm MST

Location: <https://zoom.us/j/371954998>

Attendees:

1. **Amanda DeDiego** (Assistant Professor, University of Wyoming Counseling Program)
2. **Amy** (Star Valley Health)
3. **Andrea Shipley** (Project Coordinator Senior, Wyoming Center on Aging)
4. **Ann Clement** (Public Policy Manager, Alzheimer's Association)
5. **Briane Olson** (Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, The Art of Telepsychiatry)
6. **Brittany Brigham** (Project Coordinator, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
7. **Canyon Hardesty** (Assistant Director, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)
8. **Carissa Gemaehlich-Coursey** (Public Policy Manager, Alzheimer's Association)
9. **Carolyn Waldo**
10. **Claire Hurley** (President, American Telemedicine Connect Consortium)
11. **Cory** (Star Valley Health)
12. **Deb Anderson** (Health Information Technology Consultant, Mountain Pacific Quality Health)
13. **Dustin Brown** (Director, Wyoming Project Aware)
14. **Emily Genoff** (Director of Business Development, Wyoming Behavioral Institute)
15. **Eric Boley** (President of the Wyoming Hospital Association)
16. **Faith Jones** (Director of Care Coordination and Lean Consultant, HealthTechS3)
17. **Jane Cramb** (Resource Database Supervisor, Wyoming 2-1-1)
18. **Jeffrey Dockter** (Chief of the Business Management Office, Enterprise Technology Services, State of Wyoming)
19. **Jen Davis** (Health and Human Services Policy Advisor, Wyoming Governor's Office)
20. **Jody Haines** (Telehealth Director, Billings Clinic, Montana Telehealth Alliance)
21. **Lisa Finkelstein** (Medical Director of Telehealth, St. John's Medical Center)
22. **Michelle Hilaire** (Associate Dean of Student Affairs, University of Wyoming)
23. **Morris McGaugh** (Director of Provider Networks, Mountain Health CO-OP)
24. **Paul Johnson** (Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director, State of Wyoming)
25. **Ralph Nieder-Westermann** (Director, Wyoming Suicide Lifeline)
26. **Rex Gantenbein** (Board of Trustees Chair for Ivinson Memorial Hospital)
27. **Sharon Weber** (Office of Rural Health Manager, Wyoming Department of Health)
28. **Tai Baker** (Program Manager, Wyoming Telehealth Network)
29. **Thomas Smoll** (Executive Director, University of Wyoming Family Clinics)
30. **Tom Lacock** (Associate State Director, AARP Wyoming)
31. **Traci Blevins** (Telehealth Director, Wyoming Behavioral Institute)
32. **Unknown Phone Number**

Facilitator: Dr. Paul Johnson

Minutes: Brittany Brigham

<p>Welcome and Announcements Dr. Paul Johnson, Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telehealth Booths in Libraries Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are currently three telehealth booths installed in the Natrona County (Casper), Park County (Cody), and Goshen County (Torrington) public libraries. ○ These booths provide an accessible, HIPAA-secure safe community space for individuals to access their telehealth visits. • Laramie County Community College (LCCC) Telehealth Coordinator Training Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 16-week course. This is the second year they will be offering it, beginning in January 16 of 2024 ○ This course is for anyone who is interested in building skills and capacity to implement telehealth. ○ Currently open for registration. ○ Workforce Development can potentially help with funding.
<p>Wyoming 211 Jane Cramb Resource Database Supervisor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wyoming 211 houses a statewide database of information on various resources that can help people in need. • Telehealth resources are available on this website as well.
<p>Strategic Partners and Outreach Committee Update Tom Lacock, SPOC Committee Co-Chair, Associate Staff Director, AARP Wyoming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michelle Hillaire provided more information on what exists now on telehealth curriculum development at the College of Health Sciences at the University of Wyoming. • Discussed coordinating some information gathering efforts and events where food is provided for students. • Currently working on establishing the baseline number for telehealth visits in the state. Deb Anderson has helped provide some new numbers from Medicare.
<p>Steering Committee Strategic Planning Dr. Paul Johnson, Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith Jones and Deb Anderson drafted an RFI that is now formatted on a letterhead with Dr. Johnson’s signature. This document will be shared with the Wyoming Telehealth Consortium committees. • Will be implementing Tele Doc of the Day. For context, the Medical Society recruits a physician from around the state to volunteer each day that the legislature is in session to be at the Capitol, provide care and consultant services, etc. • At the Strategic Planning meeting, the idea was shared to do this for a Tele Doc of the day. We will be attempting to recruit in-person physician volunteers Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and every Wednesday of the session. Currently in the process of recruiting volunteers and getting that program running.
<p>LCCC Telehealth Coordinator Course Tai Baker, Secretary, Program Manager, WyTN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laramie County Community College (LCCC) Telehealth Coordinator Training Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 16-week course. This is the second year they will be offering it, beginning on January 16 of 2024 ○ This course is for anyone who is interested in building skills and capacity to implement telehealth. ○ Currently open for registration. ○ Workforce Development can potentially help with funding.
<p>Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you everyone for your efforts! Happy Holidays!

Dr. Paul Johnson, Chair, Wyoming Medicaid Medical Director	
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Next Meeting: January 30, 2024 (3:00pm – 4:00pm)