

**New Mexico Telehealth Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
January 17, 2007  
Toney Anaya Building, Rio Grande Conference Room, Santa Fe**

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**Commissioners Present:** Steve Adelsheim, Dale Alverson, Lynne Anker-Unnever, Leo Baca, Stephen Easley, Lowell Gordon, Maggie Gunter, Patricio Larragoite, John Martinez, Robert Mayer.

**Commissioners Absent:** Tony Davis, Mark Duran, Paul Ehrlich, Jim Holloway, Dwayne Jordan, Richard Lueker, Ben Ray Lujan, Danice Picraux, Jane Breen Pierce, Danny Sandoval, Tomas Torres, John Tiernan, Jeannette Velarde, Craig Wingate.

**Staff Present:** Deborah Gallegos, Teresa Henke, and Camille Maes.

**Stakeholders Present:** David Douglas, NM Technet and NM Telehealth Alliance; Terry Boulanger, NM Telehealth Alliance; Boyd Kleefisch, NMMRA; Arturo Gonzales and Paul Nelson, Sangre de Cristo Community Health Partnership; Tony Danielson, IHS; Dr. Deb Hall, Project REACH; Yolanda Cordova, Corrections; Dr. Jane McGrath, and Jane Epstein, PNP, ENVISION.

**Welcome and Introductions:** Chairman Mayer welcomed the Commissioners and audience and invited audience members to introduce themselves.

**Business Items:**

Topic	Discussion	Action/Person Responsible
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	Minutes from the November 15, 2006 meeting were not approved due to lack of quorum present.	
<b>Presentations</b>	<p><b>General Services Department (GSD) Presentation</b></p> <p>Wire NM (WNM) is an infrastructure project that integrates three initiatives into a common network. They include the digital microwave network (the oldest and the first initiative) the Metropolitan networks which are the last mile (currently being developed in Albuquerque and Santa Fe), and the transport fiber. In today's architecture there are 45 separate agency networks. In addition there is the Council for Higher Education Computer/Communication Services (CHECS) network (used for higher education) and the health network. The strategy for WNM is to minimize the high cost of doing business between the Telephone Companies (Telco's) as crossing over from one telephone company to another creates a very high price. Wire NM eliminates the interconnection between the Telco's and is working towards a converged network. Commissioner Martinez' presentation included the Santa Fe metropolitan network, the Albuquerque metropolitan network, the Digital microwave and Fiber paths and the co-location in the Telco central office. The State is 50% complete from Las Cruces to Albuquerque with the fiber path and around the eastern side of the state there is funding as well as completing and finalization of agreements with the Telco's as the fiber is in place. The \$6 million appropriation will be used in 2 parts: Digital microwave which will</p>	

	<p>complete projects including homeland security and public safety; and a fiber extension for connection to the Lambda rail. The state is also working to co-locate in the Telco's facility. The strategy is to work on the high cost between the Telco's. If there were one Telco, Wire NM would not be necessary. Commissioner Martinez gave an explanation of the range of circuit costs that currently range from approximately \$300.00 to over \$2,500.00. The recent settlement agreement with QWEST on DSL projects looks promising and will be great for private industry. Wire NM still has to get to the Telehealth sites which cross through other Telco's and this is where the high cost comes in. WNM can't provide any services to the private sector statutorily. The State and the University are equal partners in Wire NM.</p>	
	<p><b>DOH Presentations</b>  The Department of Health was given legislative appropriations in 2006 which included \$190,000 for funding three programs: UNM Telepsychiatry for IHS; REACH; and ENVISION.</p> <p><b>UNM Telepsychiatry for IHS</b>  Commissioner Steven Adelsheim, child psychiatrist at UNM, and Tony Danielson director of behavioral health programs and 638 tribal support for Albuquerque area Indian Health Service (IHS) presented on the UNM/IHS Telepsychiatry project which was allocated \$40,000 of the \$190,000. This initiative developed a direct-care service model as a pilot at IHS with 2 of the 8 service units which intends to connect via Telehealth, as well as two additional travel sites, Santo Domingo and 5 Sandoval behavioral health. The first televideo evaluation will take place next week. Dept of Health, UNM and IHS have all worked together to get two contracts in place in the last four months. Dr. Adelsheim has worked across all systems to be credentialed as an IHS provider. Psychiatric services to youth and the elderly were the gaps identified at IHS. Orientations, site visits, and meetings with directors of programs have all happened. There exists an EMR system within IHS but not at all sites that Dr. Adelsheim will be using where available for his consultations.</p> <p><b>REACH</b>  Dr. Deb Hall presented on the REACH program which was allocated \$97,000 of the \$190,000. REACH provides both face-to-face and Telehealth services and is a clinical service "locum tenens" model for early intervention. For capacity building, there is always an early intervention provider (developmental specialist) at the rural site who is learning with our specialist service provider (SLP, pediatrician, or other). They are beginning to collect client outcomes. For direct clinical service, having equipment up and running is critical, and has been problematic for some sites and not available in others where they wish to access services. Training and technical assistance is an important component for increasing community comfort with the use of technology and supporting them in their professional capacity. It also creates the referral base for sustainability. In the first three months there were 42 clinical Telehealth encounters; over 13,000 miles were saved, and trainings have begun.</p> <p><b>ENVISION</b>  Jane McGrath, M.D., and Jane Epstein, P.N.P. Envision is a program that targets overweight conditions in children. \$48,000 of the \$190,000 was allocated to this program. The program is also funded by UNM, Medicaid,</p>	

	<p>ConAlma, and some direct contracts with the Dept. of Health.</p> <p><i>The other portion of the DOH appropriation was \$750,000 for School Based Health Centers and Primary care clinics equipment and connectivity.</i></p> <p><b>Sangre de Cristo Presentation</b>  DOH has just awarded a price agreement to Sangre de Cristo, who subcontracted to New Mexico Technet for the school based health centers telehealth equipment and connectivity. All the equipment has been ordered and received. The school based health centers include: Gallup High School, Pojoaque High School, Carlsbad High School, Silver City High School, Dulce High School, Belen High School, Gadsden High School, West Las Vegas High School once construction completed, Cuba High School, Des Moines High School, Santa Rosa Consolidated school, Shiprock Career Preparatory, Mountainair Consolidated Schools, Mescalero Consolidated Schools, Espanola: Carlos Vigil Middle School, Roy Consolidated Schools, Clovis High School, Socorro High School, and Deming High School. Choices of schools were made by DOH Office of School Health. Some of these schools have also been awarded a suicide grant. Technical assistance will be provided by Sangre de Cristo re: telehealth policies and procedures. Connectivity is budgeted at 45%, equipment is 45% and materials make up the other 10%. New Mexico Technet will provide help desk support. The commitment through the RFP is to support the initiative for one year.</p>	
<b>Legislative Roundup</b>	<p>The Legislation as written is requiring insurance companies to cover telehealth services. DOH attorneys cite ERISA federal regulation that prevents states from unilaterally requiring certain kinds of coverage for insurance companies. Only state-administered programs can stipulate required coverage.</p>	<p>Change the language in Paragraph B Section 5.</p> <p>Suggest include “strongly encourage” instead of “shall” .</p> <p>Chairman Mayer will revise language and send out to Commissioners by the end of this week.</p>
<b>Next meeting</b>	February 21, 2007 Toney Anaya Building, Rio Grande Conference Room	

Meeting adjourned at: Noon