

New Mexico Telehealth Commission
Monday, April 24, 2006
TVI Workforce Development Center, Albuquerque, NM
Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 9:10 a.m.

Roll call/quorum

Present: Steve Adelsheim, Dale Alverson, Lynne Anker-Unnever, Tony Davis, Lowell Gordon, Richard Lueker, Terry Maness, Kathleen Manygoats, Jeannette Velarde, Craig Wingate, Mark Duran. After roll call: Stephen Easley, Patricio Larragoite, Ben Ray Lujan, Danice Picraux, Ferdi Serim.

Absent: Paul Ehrlich, Dwayne Jordan, John Martinez, Robert Mayer, Jane Breen Pierce, Frank Pullara, Danny Sandoval, John Tiernan, Tomas Torres.

Staff Attendance:

Deb Gallegos
Teresa Henke
Camille Maes

Audience Attendance:

Arturo Gonzales, Sangre de Cristo Community Health Partnership
Terry Boulanger, New Mexico Technet
David Douglas, New Mexico Technet
Leo Baca, Qwest
David G. Hans, UNM Psychiatry
Marlena Taylor; DFA
Yolanda Herrera, RN NMCD
Joie Glenn, NMAHC
Irene Luettgen, CYFD
Roman Maes, NMPR

• **Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Duran welcomed the Telehealth Commission and members of the audience to the ninth meeting of the New Mexico Telehealth Commission. Members of the audience and staff were invited to introduce themselves and the organization that they represent. He announced that because there was no quorum at the reading of the roll call, the commission would operate as a subcommittee until a quorum was present.

• **Business Items**

- The agenda was reviewed and approved by the Telehealth Commission as a subcommittee with no changes.
- The Commission reviewed and approved the minutes from the previous meeting with the following changes: DOH subcommittee changed to DOH Partnership Subcommittee. Minutes approved as a subcommittee.

• **Report from Chairman Duran**

Chairman Duran reported that he has asked Jeff Blair to participate in the discussion of E-prescribing. Other people from the Telehealth community will also participate. Commissioner Adelsheim described the issue of prescription of medication through Telehealth. In New Mexico, there is no authorization for prescribing medication electronically. This is a gray area and it is necessary to proceed carefully as a lot of

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interests are involved. Commissioner Velarde stated that Lovelace Health Plan is must initiate four Telehealth initiatives as required by the NCQA before 7/1/07.

Chairman Duran thanked the SBIRT grant for providing the funds to support the Telehealth Commission. He then summarized the Telehealth Commission's activities so far, stating that the Commission was never able to organize as a starting commission. It operated as tactical and short-term, preparing for the legislative session. Advisory per statute, the Commission could possibly become a policy-making body at some point in the future. Commissioner Picraux added that it is hard to get budget and authority for what the Commission does. Currently the Commission is in strategic planning mode. As a quorum was now present, a motion was passed to approve the subcommittee approval of the agenda and minutes.

- **Report from the Interim Strategic Planning Subcommittee**
Commissioner Wingate reported on the Strategic Planning Subcommittee, stating that the focus was on what potentially needs to be modified in the next year in the Commission's role as clearing house for Telehealth Programs in the State as well as being fully aware and able to work collaboratively with Telehealth entities in the State. The Commission is here for the citizens of New Mexico. As knowledgeability, inclusiveness, and collaboration of Telehealth programs in New Mexico is essential, the Commission should develop a mechanism for formal comment, so the Commission can better perform that collaborative role. It was decided that Telehealth entities will come in and report on their programs as part of the "inclusiveness to coordination" effort. The next meeting will begin the process of inclusiveness.

Four categories of entities The Commission should reach out to include:

- Organizations (i.e. Telehealth Alliance, UNM Center for Telehealth, NMHIC, Primary Care Assoc, Tribal Health, etc.);
- Programs - Active and Funded (SBIRT, ECHO, Loveless e-prescribing, New Heart, etc);
- Programs - Aspiring (new Telehealth components of other health care initiatives, or entirely new Telehealth programs; and
- State Offices (DOH, DOHS, Office of CIO, Health Policy Commission, IT Commission, Office of School Health, etc).

The Commission will show these entities that it has something to offer. Commissioner Alverson stated that this should be a perceived advantage to groups who are already established

The Commission adopted the Strategic Committee report through the passing of a motion.

- **Report from the DOH Partnership Subcommittee**

Dr. Easley gave the report on the DOH Partnership Subcommittee. The legislative appropriation of \$750,000 went to Department of Health for Telehealth equipment. This is a one time appropriation and must be spent by the end of FY 2007, and the Department will be held accountable for how the money is spent. Chairman Duran stated that in addition to the letter that we are going to send to the DOH Secretary we will have a discussion with the Secretary to give input as to what we perceive the

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Commission's role to be. The DOH Secretary is not available for a meeting until the end of May.

It is believed that most in the legislature perceive Telehealth in New Mexico to be at its infancy. The school based health centers have been targeted to receive the Telehealth equipment designated in the legislation. Chairman Duran suggested the Commission do a complete proof of concept and use the money for a health information exchange. He suggested the Commission provide recommendations and describe exactly what they are, the best use of money and have the DOH partnership committee would work with DOH on the recommendations. The committee would formally make recommendations on how the \$750,000 and the \$190,000 could be used and the recommendations to be in place before May meeting. The Commission adopted the report and the recommendations through the passing of a motion.

Next steps

Chairman Mark Duran announced his resignation as chair of the Telehealth Commission.

Next meeting:

May 24th 8:30 am to 12:30 p.m
TVI Workforce Development Center

Meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.