

**New Mexico Telehealth Commission**  
**Thursday, July 14, 2005**  
**Minutes**

**The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.**

**Roll call/quorum**

**Present:** Commissioners: Steve Adelsheim, Lynne Anker-Unnever, Jane Breen Pierce, Tony Davis, Mark Duran, Stephen Easley, Paul Ehrlich, Charles Ferrell, Dwayne Jordan, Patricio Larragoite, Edward Lopez, Richard Lueker, Terry Maness, Robert Mayer, Danice Picraux, Frank Pullara, Danny Sandoval, John Tiernan, Tomas Torres, Jeannette Velarde, Craig Wingate, Lowell Gordon.

**Absent:** Commissioners Dale Alverson, Ferdi Serim

**AGENDA**

**• Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Duran introduced himself and welcomed the Telehealth Commissioners and members of the public to the first meeting of the New Mexico Telehealth Commission. Telehealth Commissioners, staff, and members of the public were invited to introduce themselves and the organization that they represent. The agenda was reviewed and approved by Telehealth Commission members with no changes. Vice-Chairman Lueker introduced himself and welcomed Telehealth Commissioners and members of the public to the meeting.

**• Governor's Message Regarding Commission's Mission and SB473 Orientation**

The Telehealth Commission reviewed a presentation from Governor Richardson on his views of Telehealth in New Mexico and the New Mexico Telehealth Commission. The Governor's emphasis was on utilizing the investment made in the State's Digital Microwave Network; access to healthcare in rural areas; school-based programs; avoidance of duplicative services; and the need for greater preventative healthcare. The Governor also stressed helping border areas and the development of a coordinated public/private partnership to deliver Telehealth in New Mexico. Commissioner Lopez summarized Governor Richardson's thoughts by highlighting the issue that the health programs that are currently in place are not lined together programmatically or technologically.

The Commission reviewed Senate Bill 473 after hearing the Governor's presentation. The legislation reviewed the makeup of the Telehealth Commission, the deliverables outlined in the legislation, and the parameters by which the Commission is to do its work and reporting. Chairman Duran summarized the Governor's presentation and Senate Bill 473 by talking about the need to have a forward-looking long-term strategy with an emphasis on short-term goals that would allow the Commission to be in a position to present legislation and funding requests at the 2006 New Mexico Legislative Session.

***Action Item: Commissioner Picraux and Kacee Collard will request permission for Chairman Duran and Vice-chairman Lueker to go before the LFC and HHS committees to speak about the mission and status of the NM Telehealth Commission. Ruby Ann Esquibel will follow up on progress of request.***

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- **Status of Current Funding for Telehealth Projects**

The Telehealth Commission reviewed and heard presentations on the various Telehealth projects, either ongoing or which received initial funding during the 2005 New Mexico Legislative Session. Cabinet Secretary Michelle Lujan Grisham presented the various DOH Telehealth programs that were either being implemented or about to be implemented in the State. The Commission reviewed a grid of State of New Mexico Telehealth Projects. See Attachment 1.

Chairman Duran directed an action item to staff to produce a list of School based health centers.

***Action Item: DOH staff will compile a list of School Based Health Centers***

The Commission then heard various presentations. The first presentation was given by GSD on the Wire New Mexico Project and its breadth and depth. There are 107 wire towers in NM and with an additional 25 towers to be purchased. There are ongoing negotiations to purchase 10 other towers. Eighty percent of the towers are fully functional. The others are in place but have not been converted to digital format. The towers are concentrated along the I-25 corridor with a 30-mile reception radius around each tower. The tower location was designed to avoid urban centers. To date the State has invested \$23 million in this project. GSD, Communications Division is the largest communications provider in the state and provides service to state police, video arraignment for the judicial system, distance learning, and broadband for state agencies. Service, 1.5 megabyte capacity, is offered to state agencies for \$250 per month as compared to \$300-\$325 leased circuit. An overlay of tower location and SBHC location can be created to determine where Telehealth sites can be located. The Telehealth Commission then heard a presentation from the Telehealth Alliance and Jordan Enterprises.

Terry Boulanger, Executive Director of the New Mexico Telehealth Alliance provided background on the Alliance and their mission. Terry Boulanger said the Alliance seeks to enable the development and delivery of technology assisted programs that promote access, utilization and affordability of Telehealth services; manage networks created to support programs regardless of telecom funding; allow connectivity to all other telehealth networks, minimize duplication of services, and provide optimum delivery of medical services

Dwayne Jordan, Chairman of Jordan Enterprises, highlighted additional telehealth efforts in New Mexico.

Chairman Duran summarized the presentations by letting the Telehealth Commission know that Telehealth Commission staff will continue to explore other Telehealth programs and models throughout the state and to develop an inventory of such projects and models for use by the Telehealth Commission. The Telehealth Commission discussed the need for a New Mexico Telehealth Website.

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• **Operating Processes**

The Telehealth Commission discussed membership on the Commission, responsibilities of Telehealth Commissioners, and the potential for Telehealth Commission member designees to participate at a Commission level. Ruby Ann Esquibel, MPA, New Mexico Human Services Department, reported to the Telehealth Commission that the Governor's Legal Council has ruled that Telehealth Commissioners are not allowed to assign designees with the exception of Lowell Gordon, who is the designee for Telehealth Commissioner Pam Hyde.

Chairman Duran facilitated a strategic discussion that led to a work plan that will serve as a structure for work items and action items for the Telehealth Commission. The Telehealth Commissioners engaged in a rapid-fire presentation of important items/issues/programs that Telehealth Commissioners felt needed to be part of the Telehealth Commission work product. A list was developed and is on staff record. Telehealth Commissioners then reviewed a structure for interim meetings between full Commission meetings. The Telehealth Commission agreed that three subcommittees be created. Chairman Duran appointed chairs and co-chairs to each of these subcommittees. The subcommittees and co-chairs appointed by Chairman Duran are:

1. Inventory and Information Technology Capacity Subcommittee  
Chairman Ed Lopez  
Co-Chair John J. Martinez
2. Program, Service and Education Subcommittee  
Co-chair Patricio Larragoite, DDS  
Co-chair Steven Adelsheim, MD
3. Standards Subcommittee  
Chairman Frank Pullara, M.D.

The Telehealth Commission agreed that the subcommittees would meet before the next monthly full Commission meeting and develop goals and objectives and an associated work plan, and that a presentation be made on such at the August Telehealth Commission meeting.

**The next meeting is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on August 25, 2005, at the New Heart Center in Albuquerque, NM.**

**The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.**

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Attachment 1

<b>Project</b>	<b>FY</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
ECHO Project	06	\$ 170,000 \$ 1,000,000 \$1,500,000	Capital Program Federal grant obtained by UNM
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>\$2,670,000</i>	
Behavioral Health		\$ 945,823	SBIRT grant carryover from funding from FY05 used for equipment and connectivity
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>\$ 945,820</i>	
Children's Rural Behavioral Health	06	\$ 950,000 \$ 85,000 \$ 136,000	HRSA grant (FFY 06) Provide telehealth in 5 rural settings Provide TH support at 4 new and 4 existing SBHC sites
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>\$1,171,000</i>	
Troubled Youth Support	06	\$ 615,000	36 sites for family visitation and behavioral health service access for troubled/incarcerated youth
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>\$ 615,000</i>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$5,401,823</b>	