

New Mexico Telehealth Commission
Thursday, March 30, 2006
TVI Workforce Development Center, Albuquerque, NM
Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 9:16 a.m.

Roll call/quorum

Present: Kathleen Manygoats, John Tiernan, Craig Wingate, Terry Maness, Lowell Gordon (for Pam Hyde), John Martinez, Mark Duran, Danice Picraux, Dale Alverson, Bob Mayer, Stephen Easley, Patricio Larragoite, Steven Adelsheim, Tony Davis. Richard Lueker (after roll call)

Absent: Lynne Anker-Unnever, Paul Ehrlich, Ben Ray Lujan, Dwayne Jordan, Frank Pullara, Tomas Torres, Jane Breen Pierce, Danny Sandoval, Ferdi Serim, and Jeannette Velarde.

Staff Attendance:

Deb Gallegos
Karen Gonzales
Teresa Henke
Camille Maes

Audience Attendance:

Don Shapiro, CYFD
Hipolito Fiero, CYFD
Vicki Gottlieb, OCIO
Bill Johnson, Telehealth Alliance
Arturo Gonzales, Sangre de Cristo Community Health Partnership
Sheila Conneen, NMMRA
Patricia Montoya, NMMRA
Deb Hall, UNM Project REACH

• **Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Duran welcomed the Telehealth Commission and members of the audience to the eighth meeting of the New Mexico Telehealth Commission. Members of the audience and staff were invited to introduce themselves and the organization that they represent. There are two new appointees to the Telehealth Commission: John Martinez in the place of Ed Lopez, and Ben Ray Lujan, Chairman of Public Regulatory Commission, in place of Charlie Ferrell who has submitted his resignation to Commission.

• **Business Items**

- The agenda was reviewed and approved by the Telehealth Commission with no changes.
- The Commission reviewed and approved the minutes from the previous meeting with the following changes: Commissioner Velarde's first name is spelled with two "n's", Commissioner Easley's first name is spelled with a "ph" instead of a "v. Minutes approved as changed.

1. Review of 2006 Legislative actions/appropriations

- a. House Bill 2, the general appropriation bill, allotted \$750,000 to Telehealth for equipment, wiring and first year service fees to school-based health centers and rural health clinics, contingent on Department of Health developing a business plan.

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- i. Chairman Duran stated that this money belongs to the Department of Health and collaboration will occur between the Telehealth Commission and DOH.
- b. Senate Bill 415, \$190,000 for planning and program development for telehealth.

2. Discussion/Comments/Perceptions of Legislature/Executive during 2006 Legislative Session

Commissioner Mayer stated that the Dept of Health has begun discussions regarding the planning process. Secretary Michelle Grisham's intent is that program development will be the primary focus. Generally appropriations last for one fiscal year and the procurement process is not the most streamlined, so in order to spend \$750,000 in one Fiscal Year, (the deadline is July 1st), a plan needs to be in place before then. The State has contracted with ValueOptions to conduct four telehealth pilots (two public health clinics and two school-based health centers) and to report back on what worked and what did not work. Benchmark information will be collected.

Department of Health has a team that has been meeting to discuss the Telehealth appropriation. Potential barriers are: Prescribing via Telehealth, reimbursement, and Health Information Exchange. Department of Health is seeking advice from the Telehealth Commission. Telehealth is also being considered as delivered through other technologies; cell phones, monitoring and diagnostic equipment, and a question was asked whether other technologies should be considered by the Commission. Commissioner Davis asked that the DOH plan include the Indian Health Services medical facilities run by tribes, and possibly included as a pilot site.

**3. Future role of Telehealth Commission in New Mexico Telehealth; and
4. Next steps/future action/THC moving forward plan.**

Chairman Duran commented that the Commission should have a major role/dominant role from a pseudo policy perspective (advisory) and should strongly recommend to DOH after a structure is identified and inputted that the Commission help make policy. He recommends that this commission write a resolution which identifies what we believe this money should be used for. The appropriation is a result of the Telehealth Commission's effort. Commissioner Wingate stated that the Commission was undermined significantly by not being aware of other programs. Commissioner Martinez added that one of our roles should be to educate the LFC that we are not just about technology. Commissioner Manygoats brought up that we as a Commission voted to be a clearinghouse and an advisory board. Commissioner Picraux explained that the Legislative process takes several years to make a change. We should start educating the legislators about the Telehealth Commission and Telehealth in general.

Chairman Duran stated that future roles for the Telehealth Commission will be tactical and strategic. Several Commissioners commented that the Commission needs to hear from Telehealth entities that are already doing business in New Mexico. A discussion ensued about tactical and strategic activities. A motion was made with the following language: "In response to the Secretary of Department of Health, the Telehealth commission will work with DOH to develop a business plan in utilization of its legislative Telehealth allowance of 2006 as outlined in HB2 and SB 415." The motion was seconded and passed.

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Action: Teresa Henke will format a letter to Secretary Grisham around the motion.

Chairman Duran will appoint two additional committees:

- 1) A strategic committee
- 2) A DOH partnership committee

These committees will meet before the next Telehealth Commission meeting. An agenda and proposal will be developed from each of these committees. Both recommendations will be considered by the Commission.

5. Telehealth Prescription of medications

A small subgroup will be appointed to address this issue. Dr. Alverson and Dr. Adelsheim will co-chair.

Next meeting:

April 24th 8:30 am to 12:30 p.m.

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Meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.