Wyoming Telehealth Consortium

Meeting called by: James Bush, MD  
Type of meeting: Planning and Collaboration  
Facilitator: Corey Jenkins  
Note taker: Morgan Melton

Attendees: Corey Jenkins (Wyoming Telehealth Network), Deb Anderson (Mountain Pacific Quality Health), Eric Boley (Hospital Association), James Bush (Wyoming Medicaid), Lisa Finkelstein (Wyoming Medical Society), Andrea Bailey (Wyoming Department of Health), Sabrina Foreman (Casper Area Economic Development Alliance), Sandip Ray (St. John’s Medical Center), Alyssa Kennedy (Office of Rural Health), Barb James (Carbon County Higher Education), Ray Brand (Enterprise Technology Services), Kevin Bohnenblust (Wyoming Board of Medicine), Gordon Knopp (Enterprise Technology Services), Tim Caswell (Wyoming Department of Health, WyFI)

Topics  
• Welcome and Introductions

Old Business  
• Broadband / Internet Update – Ray Brand  
  o Monday, Ray spoke with Gordon about how Microsoft has been securing whitespace over the last few years, especially in neighboring states.  
  o Ray will try to get more information about developing projects for providing stable internet connections for rural spaces.  
  o There is frequency space that was left after the transition from analog to digital, which people are now buying up.  
  o Russ Elliott’s presentation on April 24 about the Broadband Summit  
    ▪ Good discussion was had during the webinar. Telehealth was dropped from the broadband advisory board’s agenda.  
    ▪ Russ has been travelling across the state asking people what they need in terms of broadband and connectivity. What are meaningful reasons to have broadband in the communities?  
    ▪ Russ urged providers and others to send public comments to keep the telehealth recommendations to the board during the open comment period.  
    ▪ Russ urged providers and other stakeholders to be present on the call, May 1 from 1pm-5pm.  
    ▪ If they redact Russ’s telehealth recommendation, it might mean slower implementation of telehealth / broadband in more rural parts of the area.  
      ▪ This will impact education and health in the state.  
    ▪ Mike Ceballos responded to Lisa’s recent e-mail. It seems like somebody may be assigned to telehealth concerns?
The Wyoming Telehealth Consortium is a legislative creation – there’s been turnover in the legislature since then (ten years ago).

**WYFI update** – (Ruth Jo Friess is absent, Dr. Bush is presenting instead)
- WyFI is the state’s health information exchange.
- The system is live:
  - Cheyenne Regional, Star Valley, and Cody Hospitals are now connected.
  - Platte County, Washakie Medical Center, Memorial Hospitals of Converse County and Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County should be connected in May 2019.
  - Many other hospitals are in the process of technical onboarding.
  - This is the window where FQHCs and critical care hospitals can connect to WyFI at a very low rate. The reduced-cost offer stops at the end of 2020.

**Telehealth Marketing / Advertising**
- How to increase awareness without a budget?
  - Wyoming Medicaid is considering applications that can combine eligibility, enrollment, care networks, etc. in convenient reach of the patient.
    - Mountain Pacific has been looking at some applications that can be used with chronic care patients. Deb is happy to share that information with Dr. Bush if he’s interested.

**Telehealth Stats (January 2019 – March 2019)** – Corey Jenkins
- 364 Zoom Licenses have been issued
  - Of those, only 40% (144) hosted a meeting in the first quarter of the year.
- There were 1,197 meetings in the quarter (up from the last quarter of 2018)
  - There were 5,563 people involved in those meetings.
- Breakdown of types of meetings:
  - 26% administrative
  - 24% clinical
  - 17% educational
  - 33% of meetings did not report meeting type.
- Dr. Bush reports that Medicaid paid out 1,200 to 1,400 telehealth visits a month (some of this is obviously overlap with Zoom stats)

**Upcoming Webinars** – Corey Jenkins
- The person that was scheduled to present in May is now not able to present until the June or July webinar.
- Consider inviting Head of Labor and Health – Sue Wilson
- This is the week of the Wyoming Medical Society conference – should we consider canceling the May webinar?
- **Wyoming Medical Society Panel (2 hours) is on Sunday, May 26. Stream it live via Zoom, then provide the recording of that on the website in lieu of the webinar.**
- Other possible presenters:
  - Corey has reached out to Dr. Gray at UW to present possibly in June or July. Behavioral telehealth.
  - Another insurance payors panel? It has been a year since the last insurance panel. Make sure a rep from BCBS is here in person this time.
  - Stitches or HIPPO health?
  - Invite Wyoming Medical Center to talk about their telehealth center and plans.
House or senate representatives?
David Wheeler—talk about his teleneurology or telesroke program. James Bush will reach out. Can he present in June or July?
Dr. Rasamallu / remote monitoring.
DPC – Direct Primary Care (suggested by Lisa Finkelstein)

- Dr. Lisa Finkelstein / Corey Jenkins – Skilled Nursing Facility Update
  - The facility has seen 1 patient so far by Dr. Fitzsimmons.

- Eric Boley – WYFI Outreach
  - Last report is that most hospitals have at least been contacted by WyFI, many are in the process of getting hooked up to the system. Many are in a transitional phase with their EHRs

- Deb Anderson – Chronic Care Management / Provider Templates
  - Almost 400 patients recruited into chronic care management services.
  - Mountain Pacific Quality Health wants to find a way to connect the primary care providers and the chronic care managers to the telehealth specialists.
  - Deb has made a template for providers that can easily be shared across fax, on websites, and in chronic care meetings. Easily introduce chronic care managers to key providers.
    - Need to start with specialist providers (urology, general surgery, diabetes educators, registered dieticians)
    - Dr. Bush wants to share this at the Wyoming Medical Society meetings.
  - Communicating to the community – who is doing what in telehealth? Which providers are available?
  - HIMSS.org – You can look up information on health information exchanges and telehealth.

New Business

- Out of state telehealth business models are increasingly marketing to Wyoming. This is taking patients and money out of the state – not only for specialty care, but for primary care as well.
  - The healthcare industry is a major industry in Wyoming. Wyoming providers need to adapt to this new model sooner rather than later. If they do not, Wyoming healthcare providers will lose more and more patients.

The Wyoming Business Council oversees the Broadband advisory council.

- May 16th and 17th meeting in Riverton
- May 16th – Business council meeting. It sounds like public comments will be accepted at this meeting.
- We need phone numbers to call and advocate – contact Russ Elliott about info on who to call?

Lisa will reach out to Russ Elliott and give him a synopsis of today’s meeting. Ask about the possibility of setting up a Zoom link on May 16th, so people not present can give public comment.