

# Wyoming Telehealth Consortium

Date 7/30/2019 | Time 3:00 PM | Location: ZOOM

Meeting called by: James Bush, MD

Type of meeting: Planning and Collaboration

Facilitator: Tai Baker (Wyoming Institute for Disabilities)

Note taker: Morgan Melton

Attendees: **Tai Baker** (Wyoming Institute for Disabilities), **Barb James** (Carbon County Higher Education), **Lisa Finkelstein** (Wyoming Medical Society), **Brenda Burnett** (Wyoming Prenatal Quality Collaborative), **Antoinette**, **Brian Silver** (Regroup Telepsychiatry), **Eric Boley** (Wyoming Medical Society), **Kevin Smith** (Cheyenne Regional Medical Center), **Alyssa Kennett** (Office of Rural Health), **Ray Brand** (Enterprise Technology Services), **Maribel Frank** (Population Health, Wyoming Medical Center), **Morris McGaugh** (WyHealth), **Natalie Brizzolara** (Regroup Telepsychiatry), **Shawna Pena** (Rural Frontier Health), **Tom Lacock**, **Kevin McGarvey** (HIPPO Health)

## Topics

### • Welcome and Introductions

## Old Business

### • **Broadband / Internet Update** – Ray Brand

- Document – Project Broadband Timeline
  - There are two timelines, one for national efforts and one for Wyoming-specific efforts.
  - Satellite technology is not usually preferred, since it is sometimes not robust enough to support the needed connections.
  - SpaceX project is launching some satellites, as well as other satellite companies launching soon.
  - Hughes plans on launching an upgraded satellite by the end of 2020.
  - The term “Leo” are satellites that orbit in a lower earth orbit. They tend to have better broadband speeds since it takes less time for the signal to travel.
  - Amazon has “Project Cooper,” they propose to send upwards of 3,000 satellites, although there is no timeline for that.
  - Wyoming-specific efforts:
    - An updated Broadband plan was passed this month, July 2019. This includes a goal of having statewide cell phone coverage by 2023. This could provide different levels of possible usable internet connectivity through the cell towers.
    - In Saratoga and Guernsey there’s a research project about placing fiber in those communities.
    - The USDA has a program called “Reconnect,” where they offer grants to places that have low or underserved communities in terms of internet connectivity.
- Broadband Council Update

- They have a mapping tool they've promoted to get community members to perform an internet speed test. This will help them fill in the map and gain more realistic information about connectivity over the state.
- **Webinar Update** – Tai Baker
  - Tomorrow, July 31 will be “Telehealth Etiquette and How to Properly Conduct a Telehealth Encounter”
  - August will be Dr. Matt Gray on “Provision of Evidence-Based Therapies to Rural Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault via Telehealth”
- **Skilled Nursing Facility Update** – Lisa Finkelstein
  - There have been some ongoing barriers, but Dr. Finkelstein has been keeping in touch and will do another site visit soon to see what she can help with.
- **WyTN Awareness Campaign, Bigger Picture** – Lisa Finkelstein
  - What can we do to move this initiative forward to make telehealth a priority throughout all of Wyoming?
  - Lisa is talking to the new Dean of the College of Health Sciences, he is supportive.
  - We need to have a telehealth coordinator or manager, instead of each separate entity doing their own telehealth projects throughout the state.
    - Will this person be located at the university, as Corey was?
    - Should they be located at the Wyoming Department of Health?
    - Kevin has a draft document that Canyon started and shared, which was some highlights from previous meetings describing this “manager” position, some core components of the Wyoming Telehealth Network.
      - Possibility of increasing this position to 1 FTE, rather than including the telehealth manager in with ECHO Projects.
  - AARP has hired individuals to put together a telehealth policy study:
    - Lack of broadband around the state.
    - Providers do not feel like they have time to add more patients and make sure all the technology is working like it should.
    - AARP will put this study out in the next month and notify the consortium when that happens.
  - Biggest challenges to telehealth adoption in the state:
    - Issue with provider buy-in. Hospitals and CEOs agree that this is an issue.
      - Providers are already busy, so carving time out to deliver telehealth is low on their list of priorities.
      - Some are hesitant to use telehealth because of redundancy concerns
      - Knowledge barriers in regard to utilization, reimbursement, and technology. Providers want to be able to walk into a room and have everything set up and ready to go.
        - Infrastructure. There isn't fiber in all of the hospitals and agencies.
    - Problems coordinating efforts across agencies.

- Marketing / spreading the word in education.

### **Wyoming Peri-natal Quality Collaborative – Brenda Burnett**

- 45 minutes in
- The collaborative works with the University of Utah in their Pregnancy ECHO.
- Preparing to launch another initiative – ECHO focused on opioid response.

### **New Business**

#### **Regroup Telepsychiatry – Natalie Brizzolara, Brian Silver**

- Regroup provides tele-behavioral health services in pre-scheduled blocks of time with dedicated providers exclusive to your healthcare entity.
  - Clinics, multi-specialty groups, corrections facilities, Native American Tribes and payors
- 95% of sessions are delivered via Zoom.
- Platform is built on top of Zoom.
- They provide a credentialing packet that providers take to their payor
- Provide malpractice coverage.

#### **HIPPO Health Update – Kevin McGarvey**

- Lack of continuity in communication flows between healthcare entities is detrimental to patient care.