

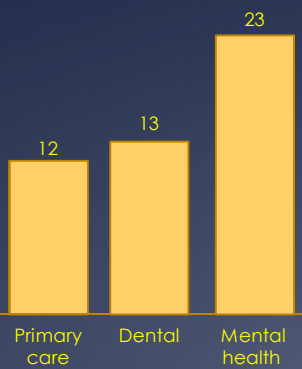
Expanding telemedicine opportunities in Wyoming

Leadership Wyoming

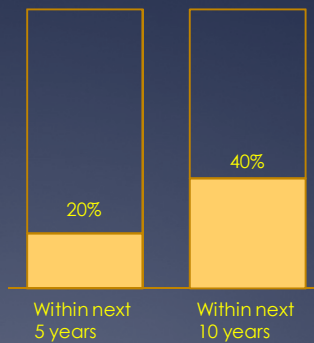
April 29, 2011

WYOMING'S HEALTH CARE SHORTAGE GETTING WORSE

**Current Health Professional
Shortage Areas (HPSA)
Counties**



**WY doctors who stated they
wanted to retire
Percent**



TELEMEDICINE SERVICES COULD HELP THE PROBLEM

Telemedicine could help address the challenges of a very rural state

- Long-distance clinical health care
- Health-related education for patients and professionals
- Physician-to-patient meetings
- Physician-to-physician consultations
- Health care administration

Our team's objectives

- Learn more about telehealth and telemedicine
- Understand what progress was being made by Wyoming in this space
- Figure out how to get telemedicine up-and-running in the Pinedale Medical Clinic for Jim Quirk

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BARRIERS TO EXPANDING TELEMEDICINE SERVICES

• Technology

- Lack of uniform connectivity or any connectivity
- Integration with existing health information networks
- Platform to deliver service (e.g., workstations)

• Education

- Provider – Resistance to interference with patient relationship
- Patient – Concerns over quality of service

• Legal

- Medical licensing, particularly across state lines
- Electronic prescribing
- Malpractice insurance

• Financial

- Initial capital and ongoing operating expenses
- Reimbursement for service provided

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LOWER TECH OPTIONS FOR TELEMEDICINE



- Uses basic video conferencing with physicians
- Adopts existing desktops and laptops (i.e., low cost)
- Transmits digital images to be studied by specialists
- Useful for on-going management of chronic diseases
- Permits transmittal of medical records



Tele-physical therapy



Tele-dentistry



Telehealth in schools

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HIGHER TECH OPTIONS FOR TELEMEDICINE



- Uses specialized telemedicine robots and dedicated bandwidth
- Transmits digital images to be studied by specialists
- Allows attachment of peripherals (e.g. pulse oximeter, BP cuff)
- Enables treatment of more acute conditions (e.g., stroke) in addition to on-going management of chronic diseases
- Permits transmittal of medical records
- Requires substantial upfront investment (~\$100,000/robot)

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WYOMING'S TELEMEDICINE PROGRESS



- Center for Rural Health Research and Education (CRHRE) seeks Federal grant for Wyoming Network for Telehealth (WyNETT)

- FCC awards CRHRE a grant to provide broadband Internet connections to rural health care providers

- WY legislature establishes the Wyoming Telehealth Consortium to:
 - Create a telehealth network
 - Make delivery of clinical services a priority

- NEED TO EXPLAIN WHAT IS GOING ON HERE

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- April – Pinedale Medical Clinic comes online with low tech telemedicine platform