Telemedicine Outreach Project

Andrew Anderson, MS
Research Assistant, Access to Care Workgroup
Outline

• Statement of the problem
• Telemedicine in a “nutshell”
• Important legislation
• Telemedicine Outreach Project
• Potential Partners
• Potential Source of Funding
Background: Access to Care

- Dearth of primary care providers in PGC
  - Especially within the beltway and southern regions
- 75% of residents have a personal doctor
  - 10% go outside the county to see this provider
- 7% unable to get an appointment with a specialist within the county

UMD SPH: A Public Health Impact Study 2012
Telemedicine

“Electronic tools for the acquisition, processing, dissemination, storage, retrieval and exchange of information aimed at promoting health and preventing disease.”
Benefits of Telemedicine

• Informed decision making
• Remote consultations, whether urgent or diagnostic
• Remote in-home monitoring
• Cost effective delivery of care
• Earlier – and more accurate – diagnoses
• Administrative efficiency and coordination
• Improves access for patients in rural areas
• Timeliness
• Supports real-time treatment
Example: Veterans Health Administration

- Enrolled 30,000 patients
- Patients with chronic conditions
- Package of home telehealth services
  - Videophones
  - Digital cameras
  - Vital sign monitors
- Emphasized self management
- 19% reduction in hospital visits

Figure 1-1 shows technology primer for remote patient monitoring technologies.

Source: Frost & Sullivan
Important Legislation

• House Bill 1149 Health Insurance- Coverage for Services Delivered Telemedicine (2012)
• House Bill 934 Telemedicine Task Force- Maryland Health Care Commission (2013)
• Senate Bill 496 Maryland Medical Assistance Program-Telemedicine (2013)
States with Laws Mandating Private Insurance Coverage of Telemedicine


States with proposed/pending legislation: In 2015, Arizona (ENACTED), Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Mississippi (ENACTED), Missouri, Montana (ENACTED), New Mexico (ENACTED), New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and the District of Columbia

*No state-wide coverage. Applies to rural areas only.
Telemedicine Outreach Project

Project Goals:

• To create a county-wide outreach project to engage providers in the use of telemedicine services
• Assess physician awareness and readiness to adopt telemedicine

Project Deliverables:

• Project plan
• Grant proposal
Potential Partners

- Veteran Affairs VA Outpatient Clinic (Greenbelt, MD)
- University of Maryland Health System
- Telemedicine Task Force-Maryland Health Care Commission
- University of Virginia Health System-Office of Tele-health
Potential Sources of Funding

• Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Building Evidence for Decision-Making Grant
• AHRQ Small Research Grant Program (R03)
• Rural Health Care Services Outreach Grant Program
• Cape Cod Foundation: Community Impact Grants Program
Access to Care Workgroup

- Address timely issues
- Impact the way healthcare is delivered in PGC
- Share your expertise
- Expand your knowledge
References


• Min Qi, W., Babkirk, A., & Yan, F. (2012). Geospatial Distribution of Primary Care Physicians in Relation to the Health Status for the Selected Counties in Maryland.. American Journal Of Health Studies, 27(2), 107-121.


• University of Maryland Public Health Impact Study (2012)