Health Technologies and Health Disparities

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Federal Communications Commission

Mission

The FCC was established by the Communications Act of 1934 and is charged with regulating interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite and cable. The FCC's jurisdiction covers the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. possessions.

Staff & Offices

- Approx. 1700 Attorneys, Engineers, Economists, et al
- HQ at 445 12th St, SW, Wash., DC
- Lab in Columbia, MD
- Field Offices: 3 Regional, 16 District, 8 Resident Agent

L to R: Commissioner Ajit Pai, Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, Chairman Tom Wheeler, Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel and Commissioner Michael O'Rielly.

www.fcc.gov

FCC Areas of Responsibility

- **Rural Health Care Program:** Supports broadband for health care providers, which promotes telemedicine adoption to expand patient access to specialists and drive down costs.

- **Broadband**: Advances both wireline and wireless communications services and technologies, thus enabling many medical and medical-associated applications.

- **Spectrum**: Provides access to the airwaves for wireless medical devices and various radio services that support Health IT applications, while preventing harmful interference.

- **National Broadband Plan**: Engages in a variety of actions and activities to facilitate Health IT under NBP recommendations.

- **Connect2Health Task Force:** New umbrella for all FCC Healthcare activities

Funding Caps

- Total funding for FCC Rural Health Care Programs, including Healthcare Connect Fund and Skilled Nursing Facilities Pilot, is $400 million annually

- Cap for upfront payments in Healthcare Connect Fund is $150 million annually

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Lifeline

- Congress directed the FCC to ensure that all Americans have access to advanced telecommunications and information services.
- Originally established 1985
- Provides subsidies to help make phone (voice) service affordable for low-income Americans.
- Proposed modernization to enable subsidies to cover broadband access
- Recently updated to include Broadband data plans

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Newest Program

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Connect2Health Task Force

- Established March 2014
- Build on framework of the National Broadband Plan

- **Goals**
  - Explore intersection of broadband, health and advanced communications technologies
  - Demonstrate the value proposition of Broadband in Healthcare
  - Charting the broadband future of health and care at FCC

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Connect2Health Task Force

- **Vision:** A future where EVERYONE'S CONNECTED . . . to the people, services and information they need to get well or stay healthy.

- **Mission:** By _identifying regulatory barriers_ as well as _incentives_ and _building stronger partnerships_ with public and private stakeholders in the areas of telehealth, mobile applications, and telemedicine, we seek to _accelerate the adoption_ of advanced health care technologies — leveraging broadband and other next-gen communications services, _highlighting promising health IT_ and telemedicine initiatives across the country and abroad, and _expediting a vital shift to more ubiquitous, broadband-enabled health care solutions along the entire health and wellness continuum._

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The Technology Opportunity

Everyone connected to the people, information and supports they need to get healthy and stay well.

> *FCC Connect2Health Task Force*

Societal Challenges to Health

- Prevalence of Chronic Disease
- Burgeoning of the Senior population
- Increasing Longevity
- Rising Healthcare Costs/ACA
- Growing populations of Minorities, immigrants & underserved
- Consumer Demands
- SDOH

Emerging Reality

The single most important factor driving future outcomes in health, is the degree to which individuals are connected to the resources they need.

> Clinician and non clinician in person connections
> Broadband, Telecommunications and Virtual Connections

The Technology Opportunity #1

Genomics

Helping us understand disease pathogenesis better.

Big Data Analytics

The Technology Opportunity #2

Populomics

Help us understand the health of whole populations better.

Really Big Data Analytics
Genomics and clinical data integrated with socio-environmental data

The Technology Opportunity #3

Therapeutic Innovations

CRISPER
Digiceuticals
Bioelectronics
Carebots
Personalized Medicine
IoT

The Technology Opportunity #4

SmartCare

Connecting consumers to the care they need when they need it wherever they are.

The Technology Opportunity #5

Smart Systems

Networks of systems that enable healthy environments that are proactive, predictive, personalized and passive.

The most profound technologies are those that disappear. They weave themselves into the fabric of everyday life until they are undistinguished from it.
Mark Weiser 1991

Technology impacts on Disparities

Eliminate problem of "hard to reach"

Health & Computer literacy become irrelevant issues

Everyone with "On Demand" access to all needed resources.

Achieving this Vision

Requirements

Disruptive Thinking
Refusal to accept the status quo
Everyone Involved

The Future

Over time, there exists real potential to make significant impact towards the goal of improving health, eliminating disparities and improving population health.

Must get it right!

Thank You!

Let's connect

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