

Resources for Rural Telehealth

Catherine Britain
Telehealth Alliance of Oregon

What is the Telehealth Alliance of Oregon?

- ▶ The Telehealth Alliance of Oregon (TAO) is a non-profit membership based resource center serving those dealing with telehealth in Oregon including healthcare providers hospitals, health systems, clinics and individual providers, policy makers, insurers, and vendors. TAO provides policy leadership and telehealth education and information to those in Oregon who need assistance.

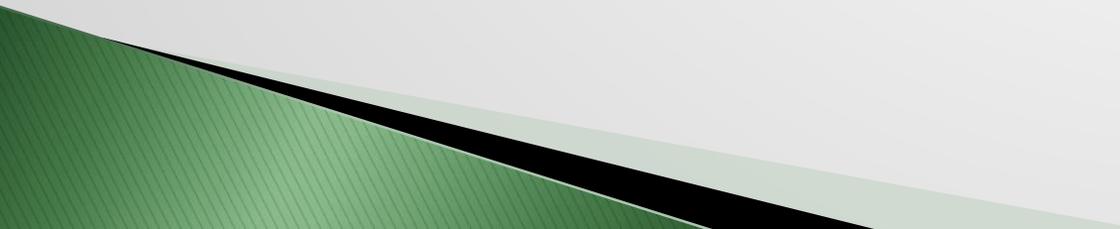
Kinds of Resources Needed

1. Financial
2. Technical
3. Clinical
4. Community

Financial Resources

- ▶ The funding for broadband used to be very siloed. Funding streams often could not be mixed, e.g. education and healthcare.
- ▶ This led to very costly builds that could only be used for one purpose.
- ▶ Thinking is shifting and USDA and FCC are considering collaborative and multi-use grants

Financial Resources

- ▶ Financial resources for telehealth startup have diminished. USDA Telemedicine and Distance Learning grants are the main source of funding.
 - ▶ Grants that are available require a viable sustainability plan
 - ▶ Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services via the Oregon Health Authority funded 5 very innovative programs for one year. 4 of the 5 were rural.
- 

Financial Resources

- ▶ Private funders are more apt to fund a collaborative effort than a single effort.
- ▶ The cost of telehealth equipment is coming down; some of it can be leased; apps are replacing hardware

Technical Resources

Resources needed to obtain and manage needed technology

- ▶ There are technical resources available from several sources:
 - If a small healthcare facility contracts with a larger facility, often the larger facility can provide technical assistance
 - Once a specific technology has been selected, the vendor often supplies technical support

Technical Resources

- Prior to purchase, there is a national resource center as well as the Telehealth Alliance of Oregon that can provide assistance.
- TAO is also considering establishing a state-wide telehealth technical support group to help address the lack of technical resources especially in rural areas of the state.

Clinical Resources

Resources needed to develop and maintain a program

- ▶ TAO and its members are uniquely suited to helping providers and communities in Oregon by providing advice and information regarding telehealth services
- ▶ There are other regional and national organizations that can also provide assistance.
- ▶ Much is accomplished through networking either at conferences or program to program.

Community

Resources needed to engage a community in its citizens health and well being

- ▶ Establish a community advisory group that is involved in the planning, development and on-going sustainability of the program
- ▶ Use marketing resources already in the community

For more information contact



- ▶ Cathy Britain
- ▶ Executive Director
- ▶ 541-910-7366
- ▶ csbritain@gmail.com

- ▶ www.ortelehealth.org