2026-2030

Virginia State Telehealth Plan

Advisory Group Meeting #3 | 5 Mar 2025

VIRGINIA
TELEHEALTH
NETWORK

Today's Agenda

Welcome & Introductions	12:00 to 12:05
Broadband and Technology Access	12:05 to 12:25
Supporting High Need Areas	12:25 to 12:45
How To Measure Success	12:45 to 12:55
Recap & Next Steps	12:55 to 1:00

Broadband & Technology Access: Helpful Resources

- Virginia Digital Opportunity Plan
- Telehealth Locator
- Commonwealth Connection: mapping Virginia's expanding broadband access
- Federal Communications Commission programs:
  - FCC Connect2Health: enables users to visualize, intersect and analyze broadband and maternal health, chronic disease and opioid mortality data at the national, state and county levels
  - USAC Lifeline Support: monthly internet discount program based on need (income, federal or tribal assistance beneficiary, survivor)
  - Rural Health Care Program: provides funding to eligible health care providers for telecommunications and broadband services necessary for the provision of health care
  - *Note: FCC Affordable Connectivity Program funding ended April 2024*

Broadband & Technology Access: 2021 STHP

- **1.1.2 Determine how broadband/internet/cellular connectivity will be addressed**
  - **1.1.2.1** Improve access to broadband technology for underserved, socioeconomically disadvantaged, and rural areas by seeking funding opportunities, such as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Rural Health Care Program.
- **1.4.1 Determine what additional infrastructure is required**
  - **1.4.2.1** Fund Virginia Information Technology Agency to add additional broadband service providers to menu offered to state and local agencies
  - **1.4.2.2** Expand DGS Division of Engineering to use additional communication towers for deployment of wireless broadband services

Broadband & Technology Access: 2021 STHP

- **2.2.1 Assess costs and current telehealth expenditures**
  - **2.2.1.1** Investigate coverage by all payers including Medicaid, CHIP, and third party insurance, and create a report detailing services currently allowed and those services recommended to be covered via telehealth by all payers
  - **2.2.1.2** Create an assessment of expenditures for medical and behavioral health costs in telehealth
  - **2.2.1.3** Assess needs of specialist access to telehealth equipment as a billable expenditure to payers
  - **2.2.1.4** Assess HIPAA compliant virtual platforms, including but not limited to accessibility
- **2.2.2 Assess the cost of broadband access and expenditures**
  - **2.2.2.1** Assess needs of specialist access to broadband equipment as a billable expenditure to payers
  - **2.2.2.2** Assess financial reimbursement costs for licensed clinicians

Broadband & Technology Access

Leverage infrastructure opportunities to achieve cross-sector gains

- What is the ideal state for **broadband** access?

- What is the ideal state for **technology** access?

- What initiatives (e.g., DHCD, BEAD) are already underway?
  - What funding will be required/can be leveraged?

- Are there priority providers and/or populations to serve?

- What measure(s) will demonstrate impact?

What this could look like...

- Support patient digital literacy

- Collaboration between health and education on e-learning and telehealth access points

- Partnership with public libraries to train technology navigators that can support multiple citizen needs - including telehealth

Supporting High Needs Areas: Helpful Resources

- Virginia's MUAs and HPSAs

- Virginia Rural Health Plan

- Telehealth mapping project with MATRC

- VBPD's Geographic Disparities in Healthcare Access

- FCC Connect2Health: broadband and maternal health, chronic disease and opioid mortality data

Shortage Area Types:
- Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)
- Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/P)
- Governor Designation

Shortage Area Specialties:
- Primary Care
- Dental Health
- Mental Health

Shortage Area Targets:
- Geographic Areas
- Populations
- Facilities

Discussion

- Teledentistry innovations
- Maternity care deserts
- How to measure success?

Catalyst's Teledentistry Implementation Toolkit

2024 School-Based Health Alliance Teledentistry Playbook: Comprehensive guide for teledentistry program development

Telehealth Provider Training Program: Tools and training for dental safety-net teams and school nurses.

Solutions Tailored for High-Need Areas

Improving network adequacy in HPSAs and MUAs with an emphasis on improving access to care

- Do MUA and HPSA designations best identify Virginia's high-need areas?

- Are there certain types of access (e.g., maternity care, crisis services, oral health care) that should be prioritized? Is there a place where this is already defined?

- What measure(s) will demonstrate impact?

What this could look like...

- Audio-only options when video feeds are unstable

- RPM for high risk patients

- Address barriers to loan repayment options for telehealth providers

- Hotspot lending libraries

VIRGINIA TELEHEALTH NETWORK
ehealthvirginia.org

Virginia State Telehealth Plan

Next Steps

Meeting summary sent to group	03/07/2025
Submit comments before 3/14	tom@ehealthvirginia.org
Meeting #4 Sustainability, quality & efficacy Workforce development & optimization	03/19/2025 at 12 to 1P
Plan posted for comment	04/21/2025 to 05/05/2025
Presentation to Board of Health	06/12/2025