
From: Jim Nelson <jnelson@MonroeHealthCenter.com>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2015 9:32 AM
To: BOCrfc2015
Subject: Broadband Opportunity Council
Attachments: UDSMapperReportI.pdf

Broadband Opportunity Council,

I represent a Federally Qualified Health Center from Union, WV, that has clinical operations in Monroe County, WV, and Craig County, Va. We have challenges, and we need broadband infrastructure support. Numerous areas within Monroe County and Craig County has limited or no cell phone and internet access. This becomes challenging for us, because we are trying to improve efficiency in patient care. We would love to leverage technologies that could allow us the opportunity to check our patient's blood sugar levels, weight, blood pressure, and other clinical measures from the patient's home. Unfortunately, the modalities for deploying these technologies are lacking, due to lack of broadband infrastructure. As a result, we lose efficiency in our health care setting... making phone calls... having patients physically present for follow ups to review personal "health logs," etc. Moreover, we have a patient portal built into our Electronic Health Record, but most of our patients lack the ability to use this feature. Therefore, we use more time pulling records and reviewing information patients frequently need at various times in their lives. You will find attached a map of the area referenced above in the narrative. It demonstrates the rural nature of this area. I would like to challenge this committee to target this area for any broadband improvements you may pursue.

Thank you for your time,

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