



PUBLIC NOTICE

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FCC ANNOUNCES AGENDA FOR BROADBAND PRESCRIPTIONS FOR MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE IN HOUSTON

Connect2HealthFCC Task Force Partnering with University of Houston Law Center to Host Policy Conference

Washington, D.C. – On May 18, 2016, the Federal Communications Commission’s Connect2Health Task Force will travel to Houston, Texas to highlight how broadband-enabled health technologies can improve access to mental health care and to discuss associated policy issues. Co-hosted by the University of Houston Law Center’s Health Law & Policy Institute, *Broadband Prescriptions for Mental Health* will explore how connected environments can be used to improve mental and behavioral health and will spotlight the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine’s efforts in this area.

The event, coinciding with National Mental Health Awareness Month, is part of the Connect2HealthFCC Task Force’s “Beyond the Beltway Series” to reach out broadly about the transformative power of broadband technologies and next-generation communications services to improve access to health and care services throughout the country, especially in rural and underserved areas.

The National Institute on Mental Health reports that one in five American adults experience a mental illness in any given year, but only about 40% of those people access mental health services. Similarly, the Health Resources and Services Administration estimates that more than 80 million Americans live in areas with a shortage of mental health professionals. Connected health technologies are increasingly part of the solution, especially in rural and underserved areas, allowing consumers to receive the care they need, when and where they need it.

Detailed registration and event information, as well as a tentative conference agenda, are provided below.

-TENTATIVE AGENDA-

- 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. **Breakfast Meet and Greet**
- 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. **Welcome, Introductions and Program Overview**
Opening Remarks
- 9:00 – 9:15 a.m. **KEYNOTE: The Future of Broadband Health Technologies**
- 9:15 – 10:30 a.m. **The Texas Story: An Overview of Broadband and Health in the Southwest**

As reported by Connected Texas, broadband infrastructure, deployment and adoption continued to show strong growth in the State between 2010 and 2014, but gaps remain, including areas in south Texas reportedly with one of the greatest digital divides in the Nation. This introductory session serves as a level-set for the policy conference, describing the connectivity and health picture in the State and the region and highlighting how telehealth has served to bridge some of the gaps.

**Featured Guest Segment: Underserved Populations in the Rio Grande Valley
State of the State: Broadband and Health**

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. **Break**

10:45 – 12:00 p.m. **PANEL 1: Care Challenges in Mental and Behavioral Health and Connected Solutions**

Connected solutions for mental health have been shown to have immense potential to empower individuals and increase access to information, resources, and support. This panel looks at challenges along the spectrum of care and how connected solutions can help address those needs. The expert panelists will also consider current and future implementations and the policy issues and gaps they foresee.

12:00 – 12:30 p.m. **VIRTUAL DEMO: Technology Driving Behavioral Health Support and Patient Engagement**

Behavioral health support platforms are going mainstream. This segment demonstrates how the Internet is being leveraged to provide virtual care between clinical encounters and better engage patients and consumers in greater self-management. Mature European models will be discussed, including policy challenges that may arise as these services proliferate.

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch and Technology Exhibits**

1:30 – 1:45 p.m. **KEYNOTE: Connecting to Mental Health Care for People with Disabilities: Access, Quality, and Parity for Consumers with Dual Diagnoses**

1:45 – 2:15 p.m. **SPOTLIGHT: Innovation in IoT, Big Data Analytics and Mental Health**

Connected health and integrated care models are spurring rapid innovation in the broadband health ecosystem. This Spotlight will highlight approaches for improving health outcomes through care coordination, personalized care and big data analytics from the start-up and incubator perspectives. Participants will discuss how connected and advanced technologies – like the Internet of Things (IoT) – can disrupt current paradigms and augment current health care solutions.

2:15 – 3:30 p.m. **PANEL 2: Policy Issues and Prescriptions in Broadband-Enabled Mental Health Care**

State and federal laws and regulations can have a substantial impact on the development and utilization of broadband technologies to address mental health care needs. This panel examines the legal and regulatory landscape for connected mental health technologies and explores creative policy solutions to improve mental health care access and outcomes for consumers, including underserved populations and veterans. These distinguished policymakers and experts will discuss current legislative initiatives and regulatory developments and offer a prescription for future policy solutions.

3:30pm **Closing**

NOTE: Time will be reserved following each panel for audience Q&A.

- CONFIRMED PARTICIPANTS*-

- *Leonard M. Baynes, M.B.A., J.D.*, Dean and Professor of Law, University of Houston Law Center
- *Nora Belcher*, Executive Director, Texas e-Health Alliance
- *Henry Chung, M.D.*, Strategic Medical Advisor, Big White Wall, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Vice President of Care Management Organization (CMO), Montefiore Medical Center
- *The Honorable Mignon Clyburn*, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
- *The Honorable Garnet F. Coleman*, Texas House of Representatives District 147 (D-Houston)
- *Timothy R. Elliott, Ph.D.*, Professor, Department of Educational Psychology, Texas A&M University College of Education, Executive Director, Texas A&M University Telehealth Counseling Clinic
- *Francisco Fernandez, M.D.*, Founding Dean, Vice-President for Medical Affairs, and Professor of Psychiatry, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine
- *Lex Frieden, M.A., LL.D. (hon)*, Professor of Biomedical Informatics and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Biomedical Informatics, Senior Scientist and Director, Independent Living Research Utilization program, TIRR Memorial Hermann
- *Laura M. Galbreath, M.P.P.*, Director, SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions, National Council for Behavioral Health
- *Chris Gibbons, M.D., M.P.H.*, Chief Health Innovation Officer, Connect2HealthFCC Task Force, Federal Communications Commission
- *Travis Hanson, J.D., M.S.*, Executive Director, West Texas Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center (WTxHITREC), Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
- *Bernard A. Harris Jr., M.D., M.B.A., M.M.S.*, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Partner, Vesalius Ventures
- *Brian Henry, M.H.A.*, Director of Telehealth, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
- *Shing H. Lin, M.B.A.*, Director, Public Safety Technology Services, Harris County
- *Judi Manis*, Regional Vice President—Business Development and Strategic Relations, Internet of Things—Healthcare, AT&T
- *Jessica L. Mantel, J.D., M.P.P.*, Assistant Professor of Law and Co-Director, University of Houston Law Center Health Law & Policy Institute
- *David E. Persse, M.D.*, Physician Director, Emergency Medical Services, City of Houston Fire Department Public Health Authority, City of Houston Department of Health & Human Services
- *Robert C. Robbins, M.D.*, President and Chief Executive Officer, Texas Medical Center
- *Mari Robinson, J.D.*, Executive Director, Texas Medical Board
- *Susan Rushing, M.A.*, Chief Executive Officer, Burke
- *Ronald L. Scott, J.D., LL.M.*, Research Professor, University of Houston Law Center Health Law & Policy Institute
- *Yahya Shaikh, M.D., M.P.H.*, Senior Advisor for Connected Health, Connect2HealthFCC Task Force, Federal Communications Commission
- *Mickey Slimp, Ed.D.*, Executive Director, East Texas Interactive Healthcare Network, University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler, Executive Director, Northeast Texas Consortium of Colleges & Universities (NETnet)
- *Sharon L. Stover, Ph.D.*, Philip G. Warner Regents Professor in Communication and Director, Technology and Information Policy Institute, University of Texas at Austin Moody College of Communication
- *Thomas Tsang, M.D., M.P.H.*, Chief Operating Officer and Co-Founder, Valera Health
- *Allison N. Winnike, J.D.*, Director of Research and Research Professor, University of Houston Law Center Health Law & Policy Institute
- *The Honorable John Zerwas, M.D.*, Texas House of Representatives District 89 (R-Katy)

*Additional participants/speakers will be added to the final agenda available on the Connect2Health^{FCC} conference webpage, <https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2016/05/broadband-prescriptions-mental-health-policy-conference>.

-REGISTRATION AND EVENT INFORMATION FOR MAY 18 CONFERENCE-

The *Broadband Prescriptions for Mental Health* Conference on May 18 is free and open to the public. Registration is strongly encouraged. The FCC and its co-sponsors will attempt to accommodate as many attendees as possible; however, admittance will be limited to seating availability.

Registration: Register online at <http://www.law.uh.edu/fcchealth>.

Live Webcast: A free webcast will be available at FCC.gov/live. Event details are available on <https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2016/05/broadband-prescriptions-mental-health-policy-conference>.

Public Input: The agencies also seek public input regarding questions for Conference participants. During the conference, audience members will have an opportunity to submit questions in writing, online at livequestions@fcc.gov, and through Twitter using #C2HFCC. Questions will be reviewed and, time permitting, may be asked by the moderators.

Reasonable Accommodations: Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need and tell us how to contact you if we need more information. Last minute requests will be accepted, but may be impossible to fill. Send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (TTY).

Contacts: For program and logistics questions, please contact Roger Goldblatt at Roger.Goldblatt@fcc.gov or Allison Winnike at anwinnik@central.uh.edu. For media inquiries, contact Katie Gorscak at Katie.Gorscak@fcc.gov or Carrie Criado at cacriado@central.uh.edu.

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