



NEWS

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See *MCI v. FCC*, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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FCC'S CONNECT2HEALTH TASK FORCE FOCUSES ON BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY AND RURAL TELEHEALTH IN JACKSON AND SUNFLOWER COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Beyond the Beltway Series: Jackson and Sunflower County, Mississippi (Dec. 2-3, 2014) —
Broadband-Enabled Health Technologies: Chronic Disease Management in Rural and Underserved Areas

Washington, D.C. – Today, the [FCC's Connect2Health Task Force](#) announced its participation in a series of broadband health technology events during a two-day visit to Mississippi. The Task Force will be joined by Commissioner Mignon Clyburn. The scheduled meetings, conferences, site visits, and FCC-hosted forum are part of the Task Force's "Beyond the Beltway Series" to leverage broadband technologies and next-generation communications services to improve access to health care services regardless of socio-economic background or geographic location.

While in Mississippi, the Task Force will gather information and data about broadband connectivity, health care access, and telehealth capabilities in rural and underserved parts of the state, and meet with a broad range of stakeholders, including clinicians, state and local officials, industry groups, innovators, civic organizations, and consumers/patients in Mississippi. The visit will also include meetings with the Governor of Mississippi, Phil Bryant; the state's senior epidemiologist, Dr. Paul Byers; Chief Telehealth & Innovation Officer for the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), Dr. Kristi Henderson; and Russell Bennet, Interim Associate Dean of the Jackson State University School of Health Sciences. The UMMC will host Commissioner Clyburn and the Task Force during much of their visit in Mississippi, and will demonstrate the capabilities of their Center for Telehealth, and the recently launched Diabetes Telehealth Network, a new telehealth program that provides life-changing assistance to diabetes patients in the Mississippi Delta. The FCC will also host a forum at the Jackson Medical Mall on the transformative power of broadband and public health.

"This is a historic visit for the FCC" said Commissioner Mignon Clyburn. "Broadband holds the promise of connecting rural America to the people, information and services they need to be healthy. Like many other Americans, Mississippians are struggling with high levels of chronic disease and challenging provider shortages. The FCC wants to partner with states, communities, and other stakeholders to bring national focus to innovative, broadband-enabled approaches that address chronic illnesses in rural and underserved parts of the country."

P. Michele Ellison, Chair of the Connect2HealthFCC Task Force, added: "It is important to capture the transformative power of broadband in the delivery of health care services. We are particularly interested in learning about the Mississippi experience in using broadband and advanced technologies to make health care available throughout the State."

Mississippi is the second stop in the Task Force's "Beyond the Beltway Series." The Task Force held its first event in conjunction with the [University of Virginia Center for Telehealth](#) in November.

Event details are available on the Connect2HealthFCC Task Force website, <http://www.fcc.gov/health>. In addition, FCC staff will live tweet the event at the Jackson Medical Mall from @FCC, using #FCCConnect2Health and #C2HFCC.

For additional information about this event, please contact Katie Gorscak at (202) 418-2156 or via e-mail at Katie.Gorscak@fcc.gov. For additional information about the Connect2HealthFCC Task Force, please visit its website at <http://www.fcc.gov/health>. Any questions for the Task Force should be sent to connect2health@fcc.gov.

About the Connect2HealthFCC Task Force

The Connect2HealthFCC Task Force is a senior-level, multi-disciplinary Task Force that was created by Chairman Tom Wheeler. Recognizing that technology innovations in clinical practice and care delivery are poised to fundamentally change the face of health care, and building on the 2010 National Broadband Plan, the Task Force is charged with exploring the intersection of broadband, advanced technology, and health. The Task Force focuses on further charting the broadband future of health care in order to ensure that the FCC stays ahead of the health technology curve.

The Task Force also serves as an umbrella for all FCC health-oriented activities, including efforts to promote effective policy and regulatory solutions that encourage broadband adoption and promote health IT; to identify regulatory barriers and incentives to the deployment of broadband networks to enable advanced health care technologies and services; and to raise consumer awareness about the value proposition of broadband in the health care sector and its potential for addressing health care disparities. The Task Force will continue to engage a diverse array of traditional and non-traditional stakeholders to identify emerging issues and opportunities in the broadband health space.