



#### TelehealthResourceCenters.org



- The F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center is partnered with the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum to form the TexLa Telehealth Resource Center (TRC).
- The TexLa Telehealth Resource Center is a federally-funded program designed to provide technical assistance and resources to new and existing Telehealth programs throughout Texas and Louisiana. The TexLa TRC will continually evaluate Telehealth programs in these two states for effective delivery of Telehealth services, efficiency, sustainability, and patient satisfaction.

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Telehealth Resource Center



F. Marie Hall Institute *for* Rural *and* Community Health



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#### Telehealth Overview 2017

# Key Stakeholders in LA

- Louisiana Task Force on Telehealth Access
- Texas/Louisiana Telehealth Resource Center
- Louisiana Department of Health
- Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum
- American Telemedicine Association
- LSU Shreveport, New Orleans & Baton Rouge
- Christus Health System
- FMOL
- HCA
- Ochsner
- Tulane

## **Key Stakeholders Continued**

- Louisiana Primary Care Association
- Louisiana Association of Health Plans
- Louisiana Hospital Association
- Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners
- Louisiana State Medical Society
- Louisiana Department of Corrections
- Home Care Association of Louisiana
- Louisiana Rural Health Information Exchange

### Background - Workgroups

- Workgroups established 2012 by DHH to study Telehealth in Louisiana
- Services being offered were siloed and fragmented
- Reimbursement was not consistent
- Initial startup cost was staggering



#### Background - Task Force on Telehealth

- HCR 88 of the 2014 Regular Session created the Task Force
- Function as an Advisory Body to the legislature and DHH/LDH on policies and practices that expand telehealth services
- Report to the Governor and the legislature on status of telehealth access

## **Background - Governance**

- Act 442 of 2014 Louisiana Telehealth Access Act
- Revised Statutes 37:1271, 1271.1, 1276.1
  Licensure and Standards of Care
- Revised Statutes 40:1223.1-1223.5 Definitions, out of state providers, litigation jurisdiction
- HCR 88 of 2014 Established the Task Force



## Telehealth in Louisiana Today

- Great progress being made state-wide
- Several Grants awarded in 2016
- MCO's appear to see a ROI in Telehealth
- Secretary and CIO at LDH are champions of Telehealth
- Large systems no longer as "siloed" as before
- Technology has made significant advances
- Cost of technology has come down
- Many thriving programs state-wide



# Remaining Challenges

- Reimbursement for Host site or Originating site
- Clear comprehensive legislation
- Barriers at CMS level (RHC's & FQHC's)
- Education & Outreach at both Patient & Provider levels



## Telehealth - Opioid Crisis

- Oct 26,2017 President Trump declares Opioid epidemic a National Public Health Emergency
- Instructs all executive agencies to use every relevant emergency authority to combat the crisis
- Order allows for the expanded access to telemedicine services
- Includes remote prescribing of medicine commonly used for substance abuse or mental health treatment
- POTUS waiting for final report from Commission on Combating Drug Abuse and the Opioid Crisis

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# QUESTIONS