Historical Overview of Telemedicine in Texas

Presentation to the House Committee on Public Health
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Presentation Outline

• Telemedicine Bills from 1995 to 2015
• Significant Milestones
• Telemedicine by the Numbers
• National Developments
Telemedicine Bills in The Texas Legislature

- Total Filed
- Total Passed

Year:
- 1995: 2
- 1997: 2
- 1999: 7
- 2001: 22
- 2003: 9
- 2005: 11
- 2007: 10
- 2009: 6
- 2011: 5
- 2013: 4
- 2015: 21

Note: The graph shows the number of bills filed and passed each year in the Texas Legislature from 1995 to 2015.
Significant Milestones in Telemedicine

- Project Bluebonnet begins - 1989 to 1991
- Texas Tech program begins - 1989
- UTMB-Galveston program begins - 1994
- Telecommunications Infrastructure Board established - 1995
- Private insurance parity law passed - 1997
- Initial Medicaid benefit established - 1997
- Medicaid telemedicine committee established - 2001
- TIF fund hits statutory cap - 2003
- Medicaid remote monitoring benefit established - 2011
“As of February 2000, the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund (TIF) supported 95 telemedicine projects at an estimated total cost of $56.2 million since the grants first were awarded in January 1999. Six separate grants provide funds to all 10 state-funded health science centers and to 716 of the estimated 1,130 public, nonprofit health-care facilities in Texas.”

HRO Report by Kristie Zamrazil, May 5, 2000
Telemedicine by the Numbers

- Amount billed to Medicaid in 2005 - $29,117
  - Patients treated by Medicaid - 332
- Amount billed to Medicaid in 2013 - $2,768,685
  - Patients treated by Medicaid - 17,416
- Amount billed to Medicare in 2012 - approx. $5 million (of $446 billion in program spending)
  - Patients treated by Medicare - less than 1% of caseload
- TIF funding for healthcare - $110 million
- 34 of 39 Community Centers utilize telemedicine
  - Psychiatry, jail-based screening, crisis assessments, court-based services and services for Veterans through contracts with the Veterans Administration (VA)
National Developments

• American Telemedicine Association’s primary and specialty care practice guidelines:

• Federation of State Medical Boards telemedicine guidelines:
Questions?

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