Telemedicine - HB 1697 Update
Presentation to the HHSC eHAC
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Background

• HB 1697 by Representative Four Price passed during the 2017 legislative session
  – The bill directs HHSC to establish a grant program to enable nonurban healthcare facilities to provide pediatric telemedicine services
  – No appropriations
  – The bill also allows HHSC to set up a workgroup that can:
    • Provide subject matter expertise
    • Help in identifying funding opportunities
    • Share lessons learned or best practices
    • Project pilots
The workgroup consists of a diverse group of stakeholders, including childrens’ hospitals, rural hospitals, managed care plans, provider associations, and academic health science centers.

There have been two meetings: November 16th, and January 18th, 2018.

Next meeting scheduled for late March.
Activities

- The workgroup has reviewed presentations and information about:
  - Existing teleNICU and teleER programs, including specific statistics on utilization and cost,
  - The status of rural hospitals and how many do (and do not) provide obstetrics and other related services
  - Results from a survey of rural hospitals that provides good baseline data on the current telemedicine landscape in rural areas
Activities

• The workgroup is developing a framework for possible pilot projects that includes:
  – Establishing a subcommittee to develop technical specifications for the pilots that use open standards to ensure connectivity
  – Leveraging resources available through UTMB to potentially provide equipment for the pilot sites
  – Using the data from the survey to identify pilot sites