



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

Status

- 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