

Workgroup Objectives:

1. Provide insight and direction regarding the advancement of telehealth in Puerto Rico.
2. Encourage collaboration among existing telehealth networks and programs.

Agenda

- **Welcome, Introductions and Virtual Sign In:** Lloyd Sirmons, SETRC Executive Director & Suleima Salgado, SETRC PR Program Director **Thank you all for joining today. We had 21 in attendance for today's meeting.**
Presented in English & Spanish
- **Southeastern Telehealth Resource Center Brief Overview:** Suleima Salgado, SETRC PR Program Director *Presented in Spanish.* **Suleima presented an overview in Spanish. Slides are available for review as this portion of the presentation was not recorded.**
- **Roundtable Participant Introductions:** *All participants*
Presented in English & Spanish
 - Name, Title, and Organization
 - In 30 seconds, share with us your telemedicine efforts and/or vision for Telehealth in PR
The recording was turned on and work group members were able to introduce themselves, in language of choice. It was fun to see and hear everyone speaking in both English and Spanish and sharing their efforts and involvement.
- **Upcoming Events:** **A brief description was shared on each event.**
 - Tuesday, November 7th through Thursday, November 9th in Philadelphia. The [SEARCH 2023 - National Telehealth Research Symposium](#). The conference is also excited to announce its partnership with the [American Heart Association](#). This collaboration will converge researchers in connected health from across disciplines and the nation, for an event you will NOT want to miss. For more information and to view the agenda, visit the [conference website](#).
 - Thursday, November 9th from 8:30am - 4pm AST (In Person & Virtual) Cost to participate: FREE
Internet for All: U.S. Virgin Islands Local Coordination Workshop in St. Thomas: Hosted by the U.S. Virgin Islands Office of Management and Budget and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. The event will take place at the Innovation Center at the St. Thomas campus of the University of the Virgin Islands and streamed to the Great Hall at the St. Croix campus. Attendees at the St. Croix campus will be able to interact virtually by sharing comments and questions via a moderator to speakers at the St. Thomas campus <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/internet-for-all-us-virgin-islands-local-coordination-workshop-tickets-735801781937?aff=oddtcreator> **A virtual option will be available. We are all working very closely to ensure cross collaboration given resources and patients go back and forth from islands for care.**
 - Thursday, Nov 16, 2023 02:00 PM EST WEBINAR “Telehealth & Libraries” Hosted by: Southwest Telehealth Resource Center (SWTRC). An informative and engaging webinar exploring the dynamic intersection of telehealth and libraries. In an era where access to healthcare services is more critical than ever, libraries are stepping up to provide essential support for their communities. Expert panel will discuss how libraries are becoming hubs for telehealth, offering innovative programs, resources, and services that connect individuals to healthcare professionals, promote wellness, and bridge the digital divide. **This is an opportunity to expand reach around digital literacy and healthcare access.**
 - January 17th & 18th, 2024: PR Telehealth Summit & Expo
Save the Date: The SETRC will be hosting a telehealth event in the Metropolitan area. More information

will come shortly. Encouraged everyone to save the date and share with their teams.

- DATE TO BE DETERMINED: Southeast Region Telehealth Conference – New Orleans, LA – TBD
The SETRC is partnering with the SCTR, TEXLA, the MUMC Center of Excellence and the MUSC Center of Excellence in hosting a telehealth event in New Orleans. More information will come shortly. Lloyd shared that they are working on logistics and finalizing dates but it looks like it will be around July 18th with a focus on hands-on workshops.
- Sunday, May 5th – 7th, 2024: American Telemedicine Association Conference: <https://ata-nexus.org/>
- **USVI update**: Boyd Mark, SETRC Program Director
Presented in English Boyd gave an overview of current efforts. Working group members shared and engaged in a very robust discussion around the importance of collaboration between both islands/territories. Many work group members shared partnerships, contacts, and services that are being provided to USVI patients as well as opportunities for integration and partnerships. It was also suggested that both PR and USVI meet together. Boyd will be sharing with Suleima the USVI working group date/agenda so that PR members can also attend. Integrate and potentially host a joint working group session in 2024.
- **Federal Policy Updates** We are grateful to have Lloyd provide a comprehensive overview of the federal policy updates. Lloyd provided everyone with the Center for Connected Care Policy link to join the newsletter and receive updates. <https://www.cchpca.org/>
 - Mei Kwong – CCHP – 2024 proposed PFS overview - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zBhRXpoVv0>
 - DEA prescribing rules – The DEA announced on Friday, October 6, that it would be extending the prescribing flexibilities through the end of 2024, https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2023-22406.pdf?utm_source=federalregister.gov&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pi+subscription+mailing+list&inf_contact_key=d6352509a7e295c884ab36f123aa30f4680f8914173f9191b1c0223e68310bb1
 - Expanded Telehealth Access Act (HR 3875) would add physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and other therapy providers in private practice, as well as facility-based outpatient therapy providers under Medicare Part B, as permanent authorized providers of telehealth services under Medicare.
 - CONNECT for Health Act 2023 will expand coverage of telehealth services through Medicare, make permanent COVID-19 telehealth flexibilities and make it easier for patients to connect with their doctors.
- **PR updates**: Suleima Salgado, SETRC Puerto Rico Program Director
Presented in English & Spanish
 - Available presentation: Actualizaciones de Telemedicina: Después de la emergencia de salud pública (PHE): <https://setrc.us/workgroups/>
 - American Telemedicine Association: Microsoft Teams for Healthcare Workers Webinar (TBD) & Puerto Rico SIG (Special Interest Group) Shared with group the partnership with ATA and the goal of hosting a Teams training specific for healthcare workers on the island, larger scale demo on how to leverage meeting rooms, integration of features, etc. ATA is working directly with Microsoft to see what resources are available and ensure the right trainers are present.
 - October: Puerto Rico Hospital Association Conference Takeaways & Future Meetings Suleima asked workgroup members to share any contacts of high level executive officials which she should be reaching out to and having discussions with. She has been very successful at programmatic level conversations, but there is a clear need to speak with C-suite executives and/or Government level leadership.
 - Roxanna K. Rosario Serrano, BHE, MS- Directora Ejecutiva (Interna), Administración de Seguros de Salud (ASES)

- Raúl Alicea-Morales, MBA/HCM, CHATM- Coordinador de Proveedores Centros de Servicios de Medicare y Medicaid (CMS) de Puerto Rico e Islas Vírgenes
- Looking for contact at PR Licensure Team/Department
- Impactivo: Community Consensus Letter Update Bekah from Impactivo shared a copy of the Consensus letter. Suleima has attached with the minutes for the working group to review and provide feedback. Impactivo also mentioned that VOCES (Lilly) has an interest in partnering with working group with Lobbying efforts.
- Establish Sub- Committee Working Groups & LEADS
 - Broadband: BEAD Digital Equity Plan William Navas
 - Data/Research: Outcomes by specialty, data by health insurance type, etc. Dra. WENDY G. MATOS NEGRÓN
 - Legislation/Licensure/Reimbursement: Sustainability, Reimbursement, Recognition of providers/clinicians by specialty, credentialing Hector Garcia / Leslie Maas Cortes, MHS
 - Marketing/Educational Outreach: cultural competencies, digital literacy, webinars, marketing campaign for clinicians, legislators, and stakeholders TBD
 - Provider Training & Workforce Development: burnout, buy-in, best practices, training modules, workflow strategies, Project ECHO, resident education Leslie Maas Cortes, MHS
- - January 17th & 18th, 2023: PR Telehealth Summit & Expo
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- **Closing Remarks**
- **Next Meeting**: IN PERSON (January 17-18, 2024): PR Telehealth Summit & Expo. *SAVE THE DATE*