



For nearly two decades Rebecca Manna has taken an entrepreneurial approach to solving rural health care challenges by optimizing telecommunications and telemedicine to transform costs, quality, and access to healthcare for Americans, particularly in rural, frontier and western America. She organizes results among commercial, mobile and nontraditional wireless internet service providers; incumbent local exchange carriers; competitive local exchange carriers; and others to align public policy opportunities with private assets, and patient, community and healthcare provider needs.

Rebecca collaborated with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to help design and create a new rural health care pilot project under the agency's Universal Service program. She used this opportunity to develop a project to construct a fiber network in Montana to improve healthcare and education while connecting healthcare providers, rural communities and colleges.

Rebecca also raised more than \$15 million to design, build and manage the Health Information Exchange of Montana (HIEM), a 432-mile fiber network in northern Montana for rural and frontier telehealth and education needs; and garnered matching funds from the University of Montana (UM). Today, the HIEM successfully connects hospitals, clinics, and colleges, in partnership with the FCC, UM, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF), rural healthcare providers, and remote communities.

Rebecca initiated a rural summit about telehealth in partnership with the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health Information Technology and Chief Financial Officers and physicians representing two dozen rural and critical access hospitals located in the northwest and north-central Montana. The summit substantiated the impact of internal wiring deficiencies within some rural hospitals and the capacity to improve care in rural places with telemedicine. Key participants included federal and state leaders of the Federal Communications Commission, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD) Distance Learning and Telehealth (DLT) Programs, Indian Health Service (IHS), private insurers, vendors, and private funders.

Rebecca secured funding from the USDA Distance Learning and Telehealth Programs for internal wireless communications in rural hospitals. She helped advance rural tele-stroke programming that places specialized equipment in rural emergency rooms via video connections to share one of only two fellowship-trained stroke specialists in Montana and played a role in creating connectivity for rural cardiologists without access to broadband.

She initiated and helped establish a successful pilot program between the Kalispell Regional Healthcare system, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Social Security Administration to improve sharing of electronic health records. Rebecca landed startup funding to facilitate the first stage of the Family Medicine Residency Program in Western Montana, one of only two residency programs in a state that lacks a school of medicine. She helped establish the first remote online learning classrooms for Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC) and

garnered startup grant funds to establish the Surgical Technology Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree, a 70-credit program preparing graduates for entry-level careers as Surgical Technologists. Rebecca also worked on more than \$300 million in federal funding for rural public health projects in Montana as a U.S. Senate staffer.

Rebecca is a current member of U.S. Representative Greg Gianforte's (R-MT at-large district) healthcare advisory group. She is a board member-elect of the Schools, Hospitals, Libraries Broadband Coalition, (SHLB), a national non-profit, advocacy group supporting affordable, high-capacity broadband. Rebecca also serves as a Friends of 340b Health Political Action Committee Board Member (340b Health PAC), a national PAC educating lawmakers about the importance of the 340B prescription drug discount program for patients that receive their health care services from entities that serve a significant number of low-income and vulnerable patients.

Rebecca holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Montana in Missoula. She is currently completing a Masters of Healthcare Administration; and a second Masters of Business Administration.

Biographical Information

Chief Policy Adviser, Government Relations
Kalispell Regional Healthcare. Kalispell, MT. (2007 to Present)

Telehealth Consultant
2007 to 2008.

Senior Adviser
U.S. Senator Max Baucus. (1998 to 2007)

A graduate of the University of Montana in 2007. Grew up in rural Illinois and now lives in West Glacier, Montana.