EXHIBIT 8

Iowa Communications Network
Enhanced Services to Benefit Iowans
Internet • Voice • Data • Video

Text Size: + − =

Home About the ICN Benefiting Iowans Customer Focused Services Bidding Opportunities Contact Us

Home » About the ICN » News and Media » Press Releases

ABOUT THE ICN

- Commission
- Broadband Strong
- Agency Information - ICN's Story
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Back to the Basics
- Agency Reports
- News and Media
  - Newsletters
  - Press Releases
  - Media Activity
- Videos and Presentations
- Join Our Team: Employment Opportunities

Iowa's Rural Health Telecommunications Program Completes 200th Location Connection

01/30/2015

CHI Health Mercy Corning Hospital's satellite Alegent Clinics in Bedford, IA and in Lenox, IA are the 199th and 200th healthcare locations added to the healthcare broadband network owned by a consortium of Iowa and South Dakota hospitals. The development of electronic medical records (EMRs) and the need to quickly transmit clinical and administrative information between hospitals and physicians fueled the development and growth of the Iowa Rural Health Telecommunications Program's (IRHTP) healthcare broadband network.

IRHTP is a joint effort consisting of a consortium of 86 Iowa rural and urban hospitals, two South Dakota hospitals and the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) with the purpose to connect willing Iowa hospitals and hospitals in surrounding states to a dedicated broadband fiber network using existing ICN infrastructure.

Previously the Bedford and Lenox clinics were connected using DSL or similar technology, which created obstacles with EMR implementation and the ability to expand services to both locations. Debra Goldsmith, President at CHI Health Mercy in Corning said, "The speed of the EMR has been less than ideal at the new locations. We hope to improve efficiency of our use of the EMR at both locations along with now allowing us to increase the use of telemedicine to bring additional services to these communities."

Bedford and Lenox are two communities that do not have hospitals. Mercy Corning Regional Hospital has been in those communities providing primary care for many years, and is now looking at expanding the services by using telemedicine and other technologies. "The IRHTP connections will allow us to increase the use of telemedicine and increase the speed of sending x-rays to be read by radiologists. It will serve two fold, improve the efficiency of our current technology and allow additional use of telemedicine," said Goldsmith.

Utilization of the IRHTP network includes clinical image and data transmission, administrative data transmission, system administrative services and Internet connectivity. Applications developed and initiated by IRHTP participating hospitals, systems and providers include: transmission of various image files, PACS (picture archiving and communication system) consolidation, remote radiology reads, specialty consultations (e.g. cardiology, dermatology and psychiatry), remote intensive care unit (e-ICU) and pharmacy monitoring (e-pharmacy), administrative (for example, billing) and clinical data (such as EMRs) transmission, various patient portals, health care intranet, clinical and non-clinical education and training programs provided on a network-wide basis (distance learning) and consolidation or centralization of various back-office and information technology functions (remote server hosting, remote server back-up and storage, health IT service, centralized billing and accounting).

###

About Iowa Rural Health Telecommunications Program (IRHTP)

The state-of-the-art IRHTP broadband network is owned by a consortium of Iowa and South Dakota hospitals.

The existing IRHTP broadband network was built using a Federal Communications Commission Rural Health Care Pilot Program award that paid for 85 percent of the cost to connect participating hospitals to a dedicated broadband health care network. The participating hospitals were required to pay the remaining 15 percent of the total cost. The network has been operational since September 2010. Last-mile fiber connection for participating Iowa and South Dakota hospitals, Radiology Consultants of Iowa, Iowa Radiology and the Iowa Hospital Association is provided to the closest appropriate ICN point of presence. A 1 gigabit Ethernet electronics connection is provided from each hospital to one of 18 ICN aggregation points MPLS electronics are used to connect the 18 aggregation points with a resilient (10) gigabit (GB) backbone.

About Iowa Communications Network (ICN)

The Iowa Communications Network administers the state-wide fiber optic network, committed to continued enhancement of distance learning and providing Iowans with convenient equal access to education, healthcare, and government. The Network provides high-speed Internet, data, IP video, and voice services. The ICN transport network is 100% fiber, which is the leading technology for telecommunications networks everywhere in the world. Recent enhancements increased bandwidth to all 99 counties with a 10 GB capable backbone. The Network can

currently operate at 100 GB, and has an upgrade path of up to 400 GB for future growth, a level of capacity far beyond what is currently available from any other network in the state.

Contacts for more information:

Jontell Harris, ICN
Jontell.Harris@iowa.gov

Scott McIntyre, IHA
mcintyrs@ihaonline.org

Back to Top

© 2014 ICN | Grimes State Office Bldg | 400 East 14th St. | Des Moines, IA 50319