Rural Health Care Pilot Program
FCC Docket Number: WC Docket No. 02-60

July 30, 2008 Quarterly Report
Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
HCP Number: 17245
Project Coordinator: Kevin Haley
Project Reviewer: Suhail Smith

Section 1: Project Contact and Coordination Information

Section 1 a. and b.: Project leader(s) and contact information

Project Coordinator:
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Chief Financial Officer
Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
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Ph: 717 531-8405
Fax: 717 531-4162

Associate Project Coordinator:
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Clinical Liaison Officer
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Section 1 c.: Responsible Organization

The Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center is legally and financially responsible for the conduct of activities supported by the award.

Section 1 d.: Project Coordination

The Associate Project Coordinator chairs a working group that includes the Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the Penn State Hershey Medical Center and the CIO from each of the network partners (Mount Nittany Medical Center, Susquehanna Health and Wyoming Valley Health Care System). The working group meets monthly to identify and

address issues. Further, the Associate Project Coordinator maintains contact with other Rural Health Care Pilot Program (WC Docket No. 02-60) participants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in order to learn from their respective process approaches.

Section 2 a.: Health Care Facilities in the Network

Facility: Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
Contact: Kevin Haley, Chief Financial Officer
Address: 500 University Drive, Hershey, PA
County: Dauphin
Zip Code: 17033
RUCA Code: 1.0
Census Tract: Code – 42; County Code – 043; Tract – 0241.01
Phone: 717 531-8405

Facility: Mount Nittany Medical Center
Contact: Ken Bixel, Vice President and Chief Information Officer
Address: 1800 East Park Avenue, State College, PA
County: Centre
Zip Code: 16803-6797
RUCA Code: 1.0
Census Tract: Code – 42; County Code – 027; Tract – 0116.00
Phone: 814 231-7000

Facility: Susquehanna Health
Contact: Armstrong, Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer
Address: 777 Rural Avenue, Williamsport, PA
County: Lycoming
Zip Code: 17701-3198
RUCA Code: 1.0
Census Tract: State Code – 42; County Code – 081; Tract – 0004.00
Phone: 570 321-3172

Facility: Wyoming Valley Health Care System
Contact: Christine Galanda, Chief Information Officer
Address: 35 West Linden Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA
County: Luzerne
Zip Code: 18764
RUCA Code: 1.0
Census Tract: Code – 42; County Code – 079; Tract – 2012.00
Phone: 570 552-1999

Section 2 b. Status and Eligibility

Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center

i. Non-public
ii. Not-for-Profit
iii. Eligible health care provider under Section 254(h)(7)(b) of the 1996 Act. Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center is an academic medical center and is a health care provider as defined by 254(h)(7)(b)(i) – post-secondary educational institution offering health care instruction, teaching hospital and medical school.

Mount Nittany Medical Center

i. Non-public
ii. Not-for-Profit
iii. Eligible health care provider under Section 254(h)(7)(b) of the 1996 Act. Mount Nittany Medical Center is an eligible health care provider as defined by 254(h)(7)(b)(v) – not-for-profit hospital.

Susquehanna Health

i. Non-public
ii. Not-for-Profit
iii. Eligible health care provider under Section 254(h)(7)(b) of the 1996 Act. Susquehanna Health is an eligible health care provider as defined by 254(h)(7)(b)(v) – not-for-profit hospital.

Wyoming Valley Health Care System

i. Non-public
ii. Not-for-Profit
iii. Eligible health care provider under Section 254(h)(7)(b) of the 1996 Act. Wyoming Valley Health Care System is an eligible health care provider as defined by 254(h)(7)(b)(v) – not-for-profit hospital.

Section 3: Network Narrative

We have not completed a competitive bidding process and related selection of vendors.

Section 4: List of Connected Health Care Providers

At this point no network connections are in place.

Section 5: Recurring and non-recurring costs

We incurred no costs for the quarter and year to date.

Section 6: Cost Apportionment

To date we have incurred no costs, therefore we have not apportioned costs across eligible and ineligible providers.

Section 7: Requirements for ineligible entities to connect to the network

We have made no provision for ineligible entities to connect to the network.

Section 8: Project Management Plan Update

As we have not yet issued an RFP for network design, engineering and installation, the project is being coordinated through a working group chaired by the associate project coordinator. We have received feedback from IT engineering staff at each of the participating institutions but have not assigned an IT professional to oversee network design and installation at this point. As we have not selected a vendor we do not have a project deliverables and task schedule at this time.

Section 9: Self-Sustaining Network

Each of the partner institutions as well as the Penn State Hershey Medical Center has extensive experience in managing local-area and wide-area networks. As part of this experience each institution has reviewed the projected cost (both capital and operating costs) associated with the project and is committed to sustaining the network once it is established by incorporating recurring costs into their respective budgets.

While there is presently no insurance reimbursement for many of the programmatic efforts we propose to deliver over the network, we expect that the efficiency gained by enhanced telecommunications and telehealth capabilities will yield savings at each institution. In addition, ongoing interest by FCC and USDA in continuing to fund infrastructure and Distance Learning and Telemedicine programs gives us confidence that we can successfully seek additional grant funding to support network improvements after the completion of the Rural Health Care Pilot Project.

Section 10: Impact on Telemedicine

The proposed network has not been installed at this point, thus there have been no direct impacts on telemedicine among the network participants. However, the process of planning for an RFP has enabled the network participants to identify potential barriers to achieving the telemedicine goals and objectives outlined in our application. Specifically the cost of equipment that is not-supported through the grant is a barrier for achieving the continuing medical education goal outlined in our proposal. This same factor is a barrier to achieving our stated goal of facilitating remote monitoring and management of patients in rural communities by tertiary and quaternary care providers.

Section 11: Compliance with HHS Health IT Initiatives

To date we have not issued an RFP and therefore have no network design proposals in hand to evaluate compliance. However, each of the participating institutions currently utilizes health IT systems and products that meet interoperability standards recognized by the HHS secretary. Each of the participating institutions is currently working with a vendor that is CCHIT certified.

There are no NHIN trial implementations in our state.

The network planning group has reviewed materials from the AHRQ National Resource Center on Information Technology and continues to coordinate with the Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health to coordinate with statewide efforts to expand broadband access in rural communities.

We have undertaken no efforts related to the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act or availed ourselves of the resources available through the CDC Public Health Information Network.

Section 12: Emergency Response Coordination with HHS and CDC

We have not completed the network design and implementation phase of our project and therefore have not coordinated the use of our network with HHS or CDC.