

November 18, 2013

Ex Parte Notice

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington DC, 20554

Re: Rural Health Care Program, WC Docket No. 02-60

Dear Ms Dortch:

On November 14, 2013, Tim Koxlien, CEO of TeleQuality Communications, Inc. (“TeleQuality”), joined by Angie Kronenberg and Alan Hill, from COMPTTEL, and Jim Harff from Global Communicators (collectively, “TeleQuality and COMPTTEL”), met with Commissioner Clyburn and Rebekah Goodheart about the Commission’s Rural Health Care program and the Skilled Nursing Facilities pilot program. Moreover, on November 15, 2013, Telequality and COMPTTEL met with Linda Oliver, Garnet Hanley, and Steve Rowings of the Wireline Competition Bureau, and Nick Degani of Commissioner Pai’s office, concerning these programs.

Mr. Koxlien presented the attachment, explaining that Rural Health Telecom, a division of TeleQuality, supports healthcare needs in America by providing service to a number of rural and urban healthcare providers (“HCPs”), including regional medical centers, family clinics, and behavioral healthcare centers in 32 states. Rural Health Telecom had the third largest procurement of funds in the rural healthcare program in 2011. Mr. Koxlien expressed some concerns about the Primary (Telecommunications) Program’s current process. He stated that participation is negatively impacted by the slow pace of the USAC funding process. Specifically, he discussed the current delay in Funding Commitment Letter approvals (even where applicants provide the Forms 466 early in the funding year). This process takes 90 to 180 or more days. Mr. Koxlien offered that an evergreen approach for multi-year contracts, so that following years could have a streamlined approval process, likely would reduce the delay for some applicants and could encourage more HCPs to participate in the program. He also discussed the need for increasing awareness of the program amongst HCPs and encouraged additional FCC outreach.

Moreover, Mr. Koxlien provided some observations about the Commission’s rollout of the Healthcare Connect Fund as outlined in the attachment. He also inquired about the Skilled Nursing Facilities (“SNFs”) pilot program, including the Commission’s outreach plan to SNFs and the timeline for applications for participants and the data the Commission expects to gather during the pilot. He stressed the need for a significant outreach plan and that the Commission

Ms. Dortch
November 18, 2013
Page 2

should keep in mind that ease of use for SNF participants to provide the Commission the data it needs will be important to garner interest and participation in the pilot.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Angie Kronenberg

Attachment

cc: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Rebekah Goodheart
Nick Degani
Linda Oliver
Garnet Hanley
Steve Rowings