

## **Telehealth Action Items 2005-2006**

**Explore the relationship between the Nebraska Health Information Initiative and the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network.** Although separate initiatives, the Nebraska Health Information Initiative and the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network are complementary projects and involve many of the same stakeholders and partners.

**Action:** Schedule meetings between the Nebraska Health Information Initiative and the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network as needed.

**Lead Agency:** NITC Telehealth Subcommittee

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

**Encourage the expanded use of the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network to provide mental health consultations and behavioral medicine.** Telehealth has been demonstrated to be an effective delivery mechanism for mental health consultations and behavioral medicine. In fact, mental health consultations have been one of the most often used applications of telemedicine in the state and in the United States. The demand for telehealth consultations has been driven by the shortage of mental health services in many parts of the state. With the development of a statewide telehealth network, the opportunity exists to expand the delivery of mental health and behavioral health services through telehealth to other underserved areas of the state.

**Action:** Facilitate a meeting of stakeholders including the Nebraska Medical Association, physicians, hospitals, and HHSS including Medicaid and the Office of Rural Health.

**Lead Agency:** Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network and the NITC Telehealth Subcommittee:

**Timeframe:** Initial meeting will be held in early 2006

**Encourage collaborative efforts with education and state government.** The Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network is a potential resource for both education and state government. Telehealth network sites could be used for educational programming and meetings in communities.

**Action:** Explore the development of a scheduling system compatible with that used by education and state government.

**Lead Agencies:** Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network Scheduling Committee and the Synchronous Video Work Group

**Timeframe:** 2006

**Facilitate the continued testing of the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network for homeland security and public health alerts and training.** The Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network can be used for bioterrorism training and alerts. As the connections for phase II of the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network near completion, additional testing will need to be done and policies regarding the use of the network for bioterrorism alerts and training will need to be developed.

**Action:** Conduct regular tests of the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network for bioterrorism alerts and develop policies regarding the use of the network for bioterrorism alerts and training.

**Lead Agency:** Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network and HHSS Bioterrorism

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

**Encourage the delivery of health education through the telehealth network.** The delivery of health education is one of the primary anticipated uses of the telehealth network.

**Action:** Develop a listing of available educational programs to be posted on the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network Web site.

**Lead Entity:** NSTN Education Committee

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

**Assist the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth in identifying and obtaining additional sources of funding.**

**Action:** Set up a meeting with USDA Rural Development Telecommunications.

**Lead Agency:** Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network and NITC Telehealth Subcommittee

**Time Frame:** First quarter 2006

### **Expected Outcomes**

- Communities in Nebraska will make progress toward becoming Information Age communities;
- Communities will have easy access to information and resources to assist them in developing their capacity to use information technology for community and economic development.

**Lead:** Technologies Across Nebraska and Community Council

**Timeframe:** June, 2004 - May, 2005