



Transforming Health Care
In West Virginia
Through Telehealth, Broadband
and Rural Health Networks

August 2007



A statewide non-profit group comprising the stakeholders involved in telehealth and rural health care in West Virginia to focus on telehealth coordination, planning and programs



The mission of the WVTA to advance the use of telehealth in West Virginia, particularly in these areas:

1. Health care delivery, administration and patient care
2. Education/training
3. Research and policy



Participants:

Rural health care centers, hospitals, doctors, mental health providers, seniors, consumer groups, etc....as well as major health education institutions (Marshall, CAMC, WVU and the W.Va. School of Osteopathic Medicine)

Other participants and supporters include the business and labor groups....and major telecommunication providers



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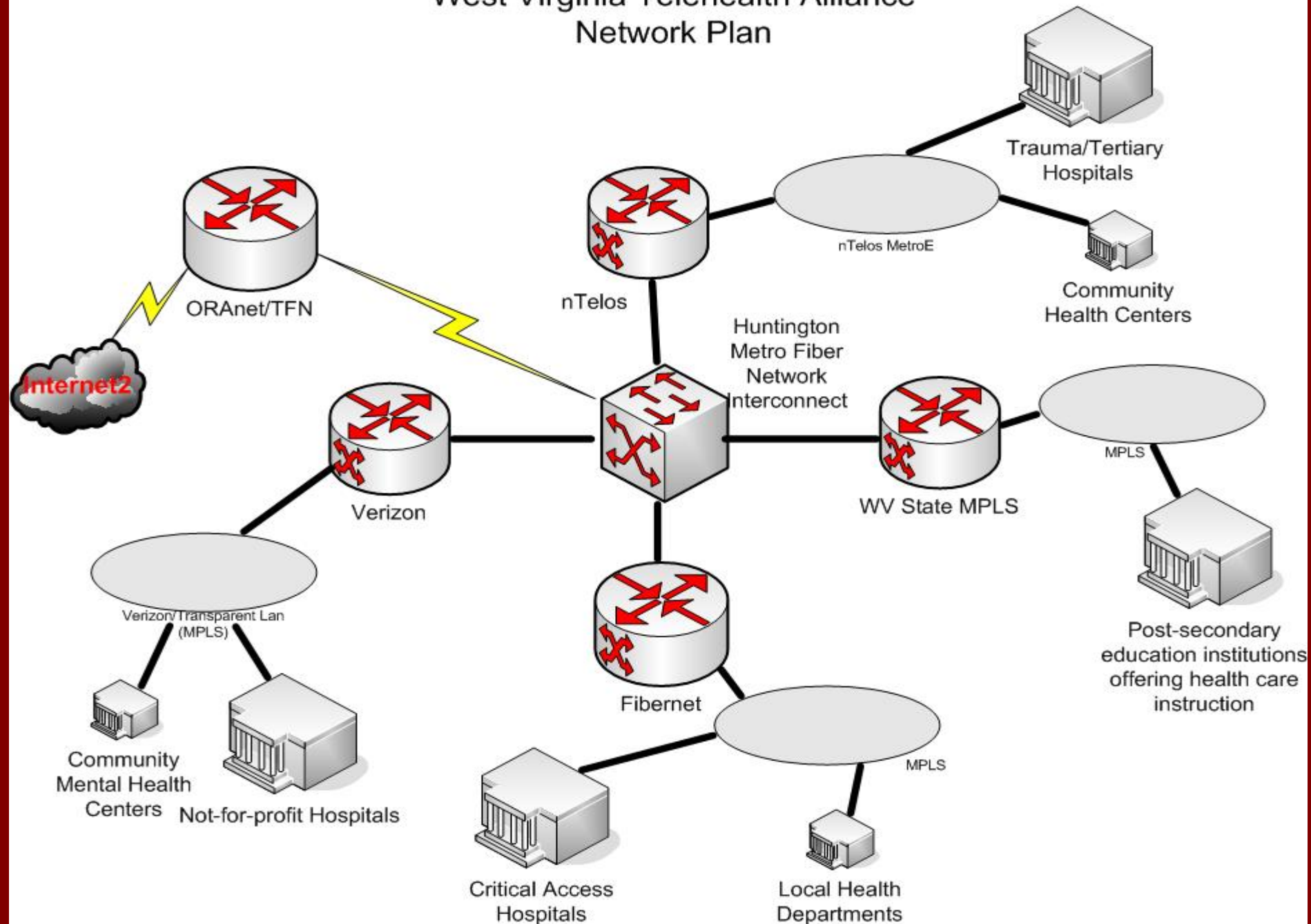


Objectives:

- Integrate resources and activities related to telehealth in West Virginia, including technological, design and implementation aspects of an integrated telehealth network
- Address technical barriers to connecting disparate health care providers by providing a framework for participants to agree upon common specifications, standardization and operating procedures to ensure interoperability of telehealth applications throughout West Virginia.
- Further development of a statewide telehealth network infrastructure/connectivity to enhance healthcare delivery with priority emphasis placed on centers in rural medically underserved areas (FCC Grant?)

- Increased access to health care and supporting services while containing or decreasing healthcare costs
- Dissemination of relevant information, training, and technical assistance to healthcare organizations and providers to assist them with the adoption, deployment and utilization of new and emerging telehealth technologies for patient treatment and care coordination
- Increased use of distance learning in public health and medical care
- Access to training for healthcare workers, medical professionals, and patient education in rural and medically underserved areas
- Connection of the telehealth network to facilitate interfaces with regional and national telehealth initiatives

West Virginia Telehealth Alliance Network Plan





\$300K Benedum Grant – 2 years

Objectives:

- Improve West Virginia's Health Care Status
- Enhance West Virginia's Health Care Education/Training
- Facilitate the Administrative Needs Related to FCC Rural Health Grant
- Create A Web-based Telehealth Information Exchange For West Virginia

Health Care Applications of Technology

- Telehealth for access to specialty services
- Shared digital diagnostic devices
- Shared clinical resources and health education through distance learning
- Remote, in-home monitoring
- Integration of electronic health records to assure portability of health information and interoperability

Barriers To Telehealth and Health Information Exchange

- Some rural areas still struggle have broadband service, quality
 - DSL/Cable may not be enough for advanced telehealth apps
- Reliability and redundancy of broadband services (equipment failure, line cuts)
- Costs associated with broadband (monthly fees)
- Regulatory and security issues (HIPAA)
- Maintenance, training
- Reimbursement/return on investment
- Education
- Keeping up with technology (servers, routers, data management, wireless)



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