Broadband Grant

• In 2010, the Nevada Hospital Association (NHA) received a $19.6 million federal grant
• Build and operate the Nevada Broadband Telemedicine Initiative (NBTI), a state-wide fiber network to provide carrier-grade broadband services to hospitals, healthcare facilities, non-profits, government agencies and others
• Technology provides access to patients in rural Nevada through telemedicine
• Project completion: August 2017
NBTI

• First all-fiber broadband connection between Reno and Las Vegas

• NHA collaborated with Switch in 2016 on the completion of the project
  • Network is managed and operated by Switch and has been integrated into their overall network

• Other essential partners: University of Nevada System of Higher Education, NDOT, Nevada Energy, Valley Electric

• Project Cost: Approximately $40 million (federal grant and match dollars)
Connecting Nevada
Connecting Nevada
What the NBTI Accomplished

• Ensured broadband fiber direct connectivity between Reno and Las Vegas
• Improved broadband between Reno and Elko
• Improved broadband between Carson City and Ely
• Provided funding for the last mile of hospital connections
Where the NBTI Struggled

• Funding not available for the last mile to other providers – CHCs, rural health centers, physicians’ offices
• Still a concern today
Future of Broadband and Telemedicine

• In 2015, Nevada enacted a telemedicine parity law

• Federal challenges
  • Low reimbursement for the originating site fee limits those willing to invest in equipment and staff the originating site since the Medicare fee does not cover costs
  • Limits coverage of health care services to originating sites that are a licensed health care facility
  • Only covers telemedicine were the patient is in a rural location seen by a provider in an urban setting
Questions

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