

State: **Virginia**

What is your team's biggest strength around telehealth programs?

- Growing interest of SLPs in Virginia regarding telehealth (subcommittee on telehealth started at SHAV, a registry (network) of SLPS in the state and content area expertise was developed, working with ASHA to draft language for a position statement on telepractice to be adopted by SHAV and DHP to develop practice guidelines).
- Parity law in place for private insurance to cover telehealth (2010).
- DMAS (Medicaid agency) required MCOs to promote telehealth in new CCC+ waiver program.

Describe your team's biggest challenge around telehealth programs.

- No Medicaid funding (outside of school districts) for telehealth services.
- Access to reliable Internet, broadband services in rural areas (65% of Virginia is rural).
- Access to qualified interpreters to communicate with Virginia's linguistically diverse population.
- Lack of training regarding telepractice standards.

Describe ONE current strategy that your state is using around telehealth.

Piloting a model for enhancing family-centered early intervention, through a "family-based treatment" approach to coaching provided through a hybrid telepractice service delivery (through Longwood University).

We are especially interested in identifying ways to use telehealth to address services for specific populations (like children with hearing loss) that have limited numbers of providers in VA and to meet service delivery need areas like improving diagnostic access for young children who need ASD diagnostic evaluations.

What's one interesting thing about your state?

Virginia is "the internet" state. Estimates suggest that anywhere from 50% to 70% of all Internet traffic flows through data centers located in Northern Virginia.

What does your team hope to gain from this meeting?

- Learn more about how other states are using telehealth to improve diagnostic evaluations and other direct services for target populations.
- Learn more about how other states are accessing public and private insurance for telehealth.
- Bring back information, contacts, and ideas to guide our team as we work on this issue when we return to VA, including connecting with partners who weren't able to attend.