

CON Rural Healthcare Study Committee



<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/CONRuralHealthcareStudyCommittee/CONRuralHealthcareStudyCommittee.php>

Interim Report

The CON Rural Health Study Committee convened on November 13, 2023. This body was established pursuant to Section 8 of Act 20 (S. 164), 2023. Members appointed were Senators Brad Hutto, Gerald Malloy and Billy Garrett and Representatives Sylleste Davis, Mark Smith and Will Wheeler. Enabling legislation also called for the following entities to be represented in an advisory capacity – Department of Health and Environmental Control (Scott Jaillette), Department of Health and Human Services (Jenny Stirling), SC Hospital Association (Allan Stalvey) and SC Medical Association (Richele Taylor). The first meeting was strictly organizational in nature – no testimony was received. Sen. Hutto and Rep. Davis were elected as co-chairs. Sen. Hutto articulated the committee’s desire to hold remote meetings in areas more readily accessible to rural residents, facilitating their participation. As of this report, Staff is in the process of scheduling those meetings.

The committee reconvened on December 7, 2023. The advisory entities were asked to present reports as was the Office of Rural Health. Additionally, testimony was sought regarding telehealth, remote patient monitoring and medical profession compacts. A brief synopsis of the respondents and the salient points of their presentations follows:

- Dr. Kashyap Patel (Carolina Blood and Cancer Care Associates/SCMA) emphasized the need for ambulatory centers
- Allan Stalvey (SCHA) gave a historical presentation on rural hospitals as context for some of the challenges facing them, pointing out that most “rural” hospitals are a subsidiary facility of a larger system headquartered in an urban setting
- Dan Logsdon (Council of State Governments) gave a presentation on medical profession compacts, indicating that SC (member of six compacts) is numbered among 36 states that have a membership in at least five compacts
- Eunice Medina (DHHS) gave an overview of the investments the department has been able to make from the proceeds of a rural health grant
- Scott Jaillette (DHEC) offered a statistical presentation of the Certificates of Need approved in 2022 and 2023

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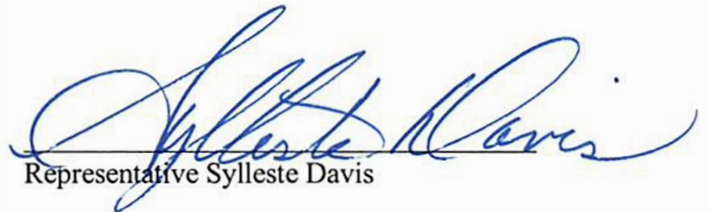
- Graham Adams (ORH) spoke of the “social determinants of health” and their influence on the rural areas, as well as the need to properly define “rural” and to understand that some areas, currently termed “rural”, are, with economic development, making a transition away from that description
- Dr. Jimmy McElligot (MUSC/SC Telehealth Alliance) referred to SC as a “telehealth-forward” state, citing the core value of a telehealth platform as the creation of efficiencies based upon collaboration
- Tod Mann (American Telemedicine Assn.) informed the committee that one in five Americans are rural; he stated that a benefit of telemedicine is a reduction in cancellations
- Troy Powell (Roper-St. Francis) presented on the concept of remote patient monitoring and a subset, “Hospital@Home”, which was utilized by RSF beginning in the pandemic/emergency authorization period; he also estimated that RSF could continue to utilize H@H, today, for 2,000-3,000 patients
- Dr. Dan Davis, Atrium Health spoke to the committee on an ongoing H@H platform operated by Atrium in the Charlotte region (49% rural) – this began during the pandemic and has allowed patients to avoid 30,000 admission days

This interim report is presented to comply with the deadline (January 1) contained in the requirements of the enabling legislation, cited in the first paragraph. The committee will complete its work in an expeditious manner, intending that by early February a final report will be offered.

Respectfully submitted,



Senator Brad Hutto



Representative Sylleste Davis