Use of Telemedicine in Rural Communities

Charles Pollard, Miners Colfax Medical Center
Raton, New Mexico
Our Program

- Partnered up with NOWCAP and CNS for mobile screening in Montana, Utah, and Wyoming
- Screen coal miners for occupational lung disease
  - Screening includes Audiometry, CXR, PFT, a PA/NP visit, and the option of using telemedicine to speak to our pulmonologist
Benefit to the Community

• Gives miners in rural communities access to a yearly specialized screening for dust related lung disease
• Helps with access to benefits counseling services for eligible miners
• Gives the miner a support system
How Do You Use Telemedicine?
How We Use Telemedicine

• Zoom Program
  • During clinic
  • Weekly reporting calls
  • Education of partners and staff
Miners Wellness TeleECHO

- Clinical providers, respiratory therapists, home health professionals, benefits counselors, attorneys (and possibly mine safety officers) engaged in the care of miners in Western target states
Benefits of Telemedicine

- To support the healthcare professionals in the rural areas
- Education for both the patient and the rural healthcare provider
- To better understand the prevalence of disease in rural communities
Questions?