PBTRC Assists with DOH Early Intervention Services Training

PBTRC serves on the State of Hawaii Department of Health Early Intervention Section (HDOH EIS) telepractice working group. The HDOH EIS is a federal and state-mandated program that provides services to support the development of infant and toddlers from birth to three years of age. The working group planned and developed a pilot project for delivering EIS services to families of children with special needs (developmentally delayed or having a diagnosis/condition with a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay) in their home via telepractice. PBTRC assisted in the development of the training program, telepractice “go-kit”, and reviewed their telepractice protocols. The HDOH EIS and PBTRC jointly delivered the on-line training program and the in-person hands-on training to the four
The HDOH EIS is implementing their telepractice program as part of their State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) required by the federal Office of Special Education.

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**FCC RHC Program Funding Cap Order**

As of June 25th, 2018, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), issued an order that increases the annual Rural Health Care (RHC) Program funding to $571 million. Also beginning in 2018, there will be annual adjustments to the RHC funding cap in agreement with inflation. The order also will establish a way to carry over unused funds for future funding years. Because of the increase in funding, all previously approved FY2017 funding requests will be approved for 100% of their funding amount.

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**PBTRC Attends the 2018 Hawai‘i Health Workforce Summit**

The Pacific Basin Telehealth Resource Center (PBTRC) participated in the 2018 Hawai‘i Health Workforce Summit, held on September 8th at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballrooms. The PBTRC Co-Program Director, Christina Higa, provided an update on Pacific Island telehealth initiatives and new opportunities for collaboration. Summit documentation and presentations can be found here: [https://www.ahec.hawaii.edu/2018-hawaii-health-workforce-summit/](https://www.ahec.hawaii.edu/2018-hawaii-health-workforce-summit/)