

The Troy Messenger

Your life. Your news. Your way.



- [Blogs](#)
- [Troy Life](#)
- [Classifieds](#)

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Obits](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Lifestyles](#)
 - [School News](#)
 - [Engagements](#)
 - [Weddings](#)
 - [Anniversaries](#)
- [Good Sports](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Records](#)
 - [Cops, Courts and Fire](#)
 - [Marriages and Divorces](#)
 - [Land Transactions](#)
 - [Police Reports](#)
 - [Restaurant Scores](#)
- [Services](#)
 - [About Us](#)
 - [Subscribe](#)
 - [Policies](#)
 - [Terms of use](#)
 - [Facebook Fanpage](#)
 - [Twitter Feed](#)
 - [Submit a news tip](#)
 - [Submit a photo](#)
 - [Engagement announcement](#)
 - [Wedding announcement](#)
 - [Submit a Classified Ad](#)
 - [Letters to the Editor](#)



By [Jacob Holmes](#)

• Latest Stories

- [PCHS begins playoffs](#)
- [Tough task: Trojans take on two-time defending state champions](#)
- [Drought conditions worsen](#)
- [East meets West](#)
- [Couple brings firearms expertise to Josie](#)

Telehealth's future explored

Published 3:00am Thursday, November 3, 2016

“Our lives improve not at the moment of invention, but when we accept it as essential.”

Michael Smith, director of the Alabama Public Health Training Network, used that quote to frame the state of telehealth in Alabama.

Smith was the guest speaker at Wednesday's meeting of the Pike County Chamber of Commerce committee on health and human services.

Around 40 local health professionals attended the luncheon to hear Smith explain the state of telehealth in Alabama and the Alabama Department of Public Health's (ADPH) plan to create a statewide telehealth network.

“It's not a matter of whether it will happen but when it will happen,” Smith told the crowd.

Telehealth is the use of telecommunications to give patients access to health specialists through local health providers. Specifically, telehealth employs live video-streaming to allow doctors and patients to communicate over long distances. With the help of clinicians at the patient's site, doctors can even remotely use a stethoscope and oversee other basic functions of a physical exam.

Smith said several telehealth hubs already exist in the state, but the ADPH wants to connect those hubs into a statewide network.

“What we're working to do is connect all these hubs and get a truly statewide network,” Smith said.

One key point of Smith's presentation answered the question about how telehealth would affect the medical workforce, which several of the attending medical professionals asked about during the meeting.

“We want to make sure all clinicians understand it is a delivery system,” Smith said. “It doesn't replace a clinician's work or care with the patient. It's merely delivering information from the patient directly or clinical information such as heart and lung sounds and so forth.”

Another big question that Smith answered was why it hasn't been employed widely yet in Alabama.

“The reason it hasn't really taken off statewide is because it's not really a sustainable business yet in Alabama,” Smith said. “When we talk to providers that are very interested in telehealth, they'll be very excited. But invariably, the conversation will come around to ‘How am I going to be reimbursed?’”

Smith explained that 30 states have enacted “parity legislation” that insures that providers are reimbursed the same for telehealth as if the patient was at the provider's office. Alabama is one of the states that has not passed parity legislation.

That hasn't stopped ADPH from actively pursuing the creation of the network though. The department made six \$10,000 carts to put in six counties to facilitate telehealth.

Another project that Smith said the department is working on include telehealth to have mental counseling for veterans, which he said should be out within a month.

[Print Article](#)



[Comments](#)

FROM AROUND THE WEB

Sponsored Links by Taboola

Meet The Razor Taking The Internet By Storm - ...

Harry's

After Losing 179LBS Honey Boo Boo's Mom L...

Detonate

What Marcia Brady Looks Like Now Is Incredible

Definition

MERMAID ATHLETIC LEGGINGS

\$27.99 - lotusleggings.com

This Father and Son Took the Same Photo 28 Year...

Your Daily Dish

How To Fix Your Fatigue (Do This Every Day)

Vital Reds Supplement

Only 1 in 10 Americans Can Pass This U.s. History Quiz

Topix Offbeat

ABC7 Liked This Meal Service, Here's Why

Home Chef

MORE FROM OUR PARTNERS

- [Get Fast Business Loans up to \\$600k in 24 Hours](#) (Snapcap.com)
- [4 Money-Saving Steps New Car Dealers Don't ...](#) (CarPriceSecrets.com)
- [17 Movie Stars Who Were Almost Unrecognizable On-Scre...](#) (The Stir)

WE RECOMMEND

- [18 Eerie and Awesome Abandoned Movie Sets \(We Can't Believ...](#) (Clipd)
- [How To Protect Your Home And Keep Burglars Out](#) (SimpliSafe)
- [Hubert C. Davis](#)

Promoted Links by Taboola

• Today's Videos



More videos:



We bring healing HOME.



TROY REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER | Home Health

• 334.403.4520

Most E-mailed

- ○ [Master gardener entertains at Female Factor](#)
- [‘FULFILLING MY DREAM’: Posh & P owner opens boutique on Troy’s historic downtown Square](#)
- [Kelley new CHHS principal](#)
- [FFA banquet honors](#)



 *Byrd Drug Co., Inc.*
Established in 1940

81 N. Court Square Troy, AL • (334) 566-0100

We Have a **Perfect Fit**
for all your
Mortgage Needs

**TROY
BANK
& TRUST**

 **South Alabama
Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1-800-556-2060 www.southaec.com

JOHNSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS



 **Flex Pack**™ Don't Watch? Don't Pay. **\$39⁹⁹/mo** Guaranteed for 2 years [Create Now](#)

Shop Speedo USA Now

Performance & Comfort Have Arrived

[Learn More](#)

Sponsored by Speedo USA

0 Comments

Troy Messenger

[Login](#)

[Recommend](#)

[Share](#)

Sort by Best



Start the discussion...

Be the first to comment.

[Subscribe](#) [Add Disqus to your site](#) [Add Disqus](#) [Add](#) [Privacy](#)

DISQUS

Shop Speedo USA Now

Performance & Comfort Have Arrived

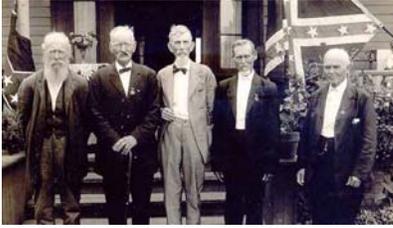
[Learn More](#)

Sponsored by Speedo USA

Editor's Picks



Feathered Friends



Who is this?



The 'coaster' of life



God's work

Network

1. troymessenger.com

Sections

1. [Home](#)
2. [News](#)
3. [Sports](#)
4. [Opinion](#)
5. [Lifestyles](#)
6. [Obits](#)
7. [Business](#)

Services

1. [About Us](#)
2. [Subscribe](#)
3. [Policies](#)
4. [Terms of use](#)
5. [Submit a news tip](#)
6. [Submit a photo](#)
7. [Birth announcement](#)
8. [Birthday announcement](#)
9. [Engagement announcement](#)
10. [Wedding announcement](#)
11. [Local "Find it" Online Business Directory](#)
12. [Facebook Fanpage](#)
13. [Twitter Feed](#)

Copyright

1. © 2016, The Troy Messenger