

Contact: Rachel Boon

**PRESENTATION AT UNIVERSITY OF IOWA:
“ADVANCING HEALTH IN IOWA AND THE NATION: THE RURAL TELEHEALTH
RESEARCH CENTER”**

Action Requested: Receive the presentation.

Executive Summary: “Telehealth” is the use of telecommunication and information technologies to provide health care services at a distance. The Rural Telehealth Research Center, funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, is helping to build a base of evidence about the effectiveness of telehealth by surveying users about its benefits, examining the business case for telehealth, documenting how it helps relieve provider shortages in rural areas, and identifying measures for telehealth in school-based health clinics—among other projects. This presentation will provide an overview of how telehealth in emergency departments is helping to meet the needs of patients, providers, and administrators in small rural hospitals. Dr. Ward presented the College of Public Health’s “Distinguished Faculty Lecture” on the Rural Telehealth Research Center’s work on August 30, 2017.

Marcia M. Ward, PhD, is Professor and Interim Head in the Department of Health Management and Policy in the College of Public Health at the University of Iowa. Dr. Ward is Director of the Center for Health Policy and Research at the University of Iowa. She also directs the HRSA-funded Rural Telehealth Research Center. Her 35 years of research experience focus on health services research, rural healthcare delivery, and health outcomes. Dr. Ward has been the PI of numerous grants funded by AHRQ, HRSA, NIH, the State of California, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She is the author of over 100 peer review publications and 40 technical reports and has been funded on over 70 grants and contracts during her research career. Prior to joining the University of Iowa in 1997, Dr. Ward co-led the Health Outcomes Program at SRI International (formerly Stanford Research Institute) where she served as the Associate Director of the Center for Health Sciences. She received her PhD in clinical psychology from the Ohio State University and is a fellow of the Society of Behavioral Medicine.