



Uzbekistan Health Delegation Learns from Women's Telehealth in Atlanta

November 8, 2013

In conjunction with World Learning and the Georgia Council for International Visitors, Tanya Mack, COO of Women's Telehealth in Atlanta led a group of twelve health care delegates from Uzbekistan, including the Health Minister, through a workshop on healthcare small businesses. The visiting delegation came for a three week period and visited several healthcare entities in the Atlanta area to learn new, innovative approaches to healthcare that could be considered for their country. As part of the workshop, Ms. Mack presented A Case Study: Women's Telehealth, a company she had formed two years earlier with Dr. C. Anne Patterson and Leigh Ritorto to bring high risk OB services to patients via telehealth. Women's Telehealth, an Atlanta based company that has completed over 5000 high risk OB telemedicine encounters, has been a leader in their field and in the eastern US. In the workshop, the group discussed the basic components of healthcare startups in the US, assessing patient needs and examined the use of telemedicine as a growing modality in the United States.

The group, who communicated through two translators, had a chance to learn about state of the art technology (Bluetooth, codex, high resolution cameras, and Dicom compatible ultrasonography) use in telemedicine. They also exchanged ideas about provider and user adoption. During the exchange, the Uzbekistan delegation also explained how they use hub/spoke based telemedicine primarily for provider long distance learning in their country and have only recently started adding patient encounters via telemedicine. At the conclusion of the workshop, the delegation, mostly physicians, toured Women's Telehealth and spent some time interacting with Dr. C. Anne Patterson to discuss her use and perspectives on high risk obstetric telemedicine and telemedicine in the US. At the conclusion of the workshop, the delegation was able to gain patient permission to actually observe several high risk telemedicine encounters with Dr. Patterson.

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