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*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

**THE FCC'S CONNECT2HEALTH TASK FORCE TO HOST
BROADBAND MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE WITH
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER**

Houston Event on May 18 at 8:00 a.m. CDT Open to the Media

WASHINGTON, May 16, 2016 – On May 18, 2016, the Federal Communications Commission's Connect2Health Task Force, along with Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, will travel to Houston, Texas to highlight how broadband-enabled health technologies can help address mental and behavioral health needs. The policy conference, *Broadband Prescriptions for Mental Health*, coincides with National Mental Health Awareness Month and is co-hosted by the University of Houston Law Center's Health Law and Policy Institute. This event is part of the Task Force's "Beyond the Beltway Series" to reach out broadly about the transformative power of broadband-enabled solutions and next-generation communications, especially in rural and underserved areas.

WHEN: Wednesday, May 18, 2016, from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. CDT

This event is free and open to the public. Due to limited seating, [online registration](#) is strongly encouraged. Members of the media are welcome to attend.

WHAT: Broadband Prescriptions for Mental Health: A Policy Conference

The broadband health conference will explore how connected environments can be used to improve mental health and will spotlight the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine's efforts in this area. The conference will feature a cross-section of policymakers, industry leaders, health technology innovators, consumer advocates, clinicians, rural health organizations and others interested in leveraging technology to help address and improve mental health.

Topics and demonstrations will include:

- An overview of broadband and health in the Southwest, with a segment on underserved populations in the Rio Grande Valley
- Spotlight on connecting people with disabilities to mental health care
- Panels discussing innovation in the broadband and mental health sectors

- Policy dialogue on creative solutions to improve mental health care access and outcomes for consumers, including underserved populations and Veterans
- Demonstrations of cutting-edge applications in behavioral health and connected solutions, telepsychiatry and more

WHO: FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn will join University of Houston Law Center Dean Leonard M. Baynes, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine Dean Dr. Francisco Fernandez, the Connect2Health^{FCC} Task Force, and other leaders in Texas telehealth and policy including the Honorable Garnet F. Coleman and the Honorable John Zerwas, M.D. of the Texas House of Representatives; Chief Executive Officer and Managing Partner of Vesalius Ventures Bernard A. Harris Jr.; and Professor of Biomedical Informatics and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Lex Frieden.

A complete event agenda including speakers is available [online](#).

WHERE: The conference will be held at the University of Houston Law Center, 4604 Calhoun Road, Bates Law Building Room 109.

Press interested in media interviews should contact Katie Gorscak, C2HFCC Communications Director at (202) 763-4733 or Katie.gorscak@fcc.gov; or Carrie Anna Criado, UH Law Center Executive Director of Communications and Marketing, at (713) 743-2184 or cacriado@central.uh.edu.

ONLINE: The event will be webcast on <http://www.fcc.gov/live> starting at 8:30 a.m. CDT. Follow the conversation via Twitter at #C2HFCC.

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