# AUCD Rural Area Code Caucus (RACC) Discussion Agenda

June 1, 2020 (TODAY: Monday)

4pm EDT

Zoom/ Video Conference: <https://umontana.zoom.us/j/387470065>

## Discussion Items

1. Quick agenda review
2. COVID-19 impact
   1. Phase-in issues/ concerns for rural-focused activities
   2. Additional Federal funding opportunities; challenges for rural communities?
3. Next initiative/issue for the RACC? See meeting notes below.
4. Rural/ Territory issues of concern for Public Policy committee/ Board of Directors
5. Other Issues

NEXT ONLINE MEETING: June 25

ZOOM MEETING: <https://umontana.zoom.us/j/387470065>

Upcoming Meetings at 4pm EDT

* June 25, 2020 (Thursday)

# RACC Issues Discussion 11/17/2019

Notes from the November 2019 discussion in response to the question: “what issues should we focus on in the coming months?” They are in no particular order, just the order they were presented in the discussion.

* Internet and broadband speed in rural areas.
  + many families pay per download. This is very expensive.
* Workforce availability and development of staff.
  + We cannot professionalize the natural workforce (families and caregivers). This is not sustainable. We need to improve access to a professional workforce. The issues of the DD and healthcare workforce are virtually the same.
* Genetics services
* Who are the like-minded groups on these issues? We need to build better connections and build community bridges.
* The basic electrical grid infrastructure in the US is not consistent. This is a tertiary but critical issue for those with electricity-dependent disabilities (e.g., ventilators, electronic mobility, etc.)
* Emergency preparedness. ACL will have listening sessions on this issue in the coming months. What are the rural issues we share with other constituencies?
* Social isolation/fun/recreation. We need to build this issue into DD services. This is a quality of life issue for people with disabilities.
  + How can we better use technology for socialization? Connections? Friendships?
  + People in communities cannot always access their own friends and relationships due to lack of transportation.
* Climate change; access to food; environmental issues; return on investment for our policy issues.

## January 2019 Meeting Notes

To identify initial topics and priorities, several participants described the rural issues they are addressing well and those that represent chronic, perpetual challenges in their areas. The preliminary list is not exhaustive.

| **State/ Participant** | **Strengths** | **Challenges** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Alice- Oregon (OHSU) | * Housing initiative with the DD Council. * Access to health care. | * Transportation to services, etc. |
| Maureen- Maryland | * Awareness of disability services and issues through community organizations (e.g., Rotary). This has led to improved reach in rural schools. * Telemedicine increases reach but is not consistent statewide. | * Transportation * Access to health care services. |
| Susan-Texas | * Genetics training for some families, but many communities does have genetics providers. | * Poor internet access; adequate broadband access and speed\*. |
| Tafa- American Samoa | * Bandwidth is now steady for Telehealth and Telemedicine services. | * Human security (e.g., emergency prep\*, disaster prep, political unrest that impacts distant territories but not continental U.S.) * No PKU/ genetic testing\*. * Nutrition (e.g., iodine) and food safety. |
| Greg- SD | * Connecting with like-minded community groups (e.g., Rotary, Chambers of Commerce, AARP) and community “bridge-building.” | * Transportation * Statewide reach beyond urban centers (beyond I-90 corridor) |
| Lori- ND | * Communication across agencies. * Relationships with like-minded partners | * Lack of services in behavioral health. * Affordable accessible housing. * Transportation (#1 priority). * Access to health care and insurance. * Employment and competitive wages (e.g., 14c issue). |
| Marty- MT | * CIL relationship and health promotion. * Collaboration with pediatric healthcare system. | * Access to appropriate healthcare. * DD services workforce development and staff retention\*. |

\* Identified again in the November 2019 meeting.