Appendix A

**GEORGIA’S TELEHEALTH JOURNEY**

**1994**
- DPH Pilot Telemedicine Network
  - The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) launched its first telemedicine program in a health department in Waycross, GA.

**2003**
- Corporate Merger
  - WellPoint Health Networks, Inc. and Anthem merged to form WellPoint. The merger resulted in $126.5 million of new funding and equipment for GA’s medical schools and rural hospitals—the beginning of the GA Telemedicine Program. Anthem also agreed to grant $15 million in insurance benefits to pay for the telemedicine procedures over the next three years.

**2006**
- Buildout of Telemedicine Network
  - DPH piloted programs in Augusta and Waycross health districts to collect data on utilization, efficiency, effectiveness and staff and patient satisfaction. This expanded over the next 11 years (2012).

**2009**
- SBTH Program Pilot
  - GPT piloted a school-based telehealth (SBTH) program in Berrien Elementary School.

**2010**
- Telehealth Recognition
  - GPT was named one of four new Telehealth Resource Centers in the United States by the Department of Health and Human Services.

**2016**
- Telehealth Network Expansion
  - DPH received approximately $2 million of state funding, allowing DPH to connect all 159 county health departments and specialty clinics with each other and to other collaborative partners and providers.

**2017**
- Telehealth vs Telemedicine
  - Georgia amended the Telemedicine Act, renaming it the Telehealth Act, which expanded the practices and services that can be delivered through telecommunication technologies.

**2019**
- Interstate Compacts
  - Georgia allows out-of-state physicians to provide services through telemedicine.

**2019**
- GPT expanded its telehealth services to over 100 schools.

**2019**
- Additional Funding
  - GPT was awarded the $2.5 million from the broadband Technologies Opportunity Program grant, with $1.2 million in matching contributions – to expand the Telemedicine Program to 67 additional sites, including schools, hospitals and public health departments.

**2019**
- Buildout of Telemedicine Network Expansion
  - DPH piloted programs in Augusta and Waycross health districts to collect data on utilization, efficiency, effectiveness and staff and patient satisfaction. This expanded over the next 11 years (2012).

**2019**
- Telehealth Parity
  - Georgia requires that all payers reimburse telehealth services and in-person appointments equally.