

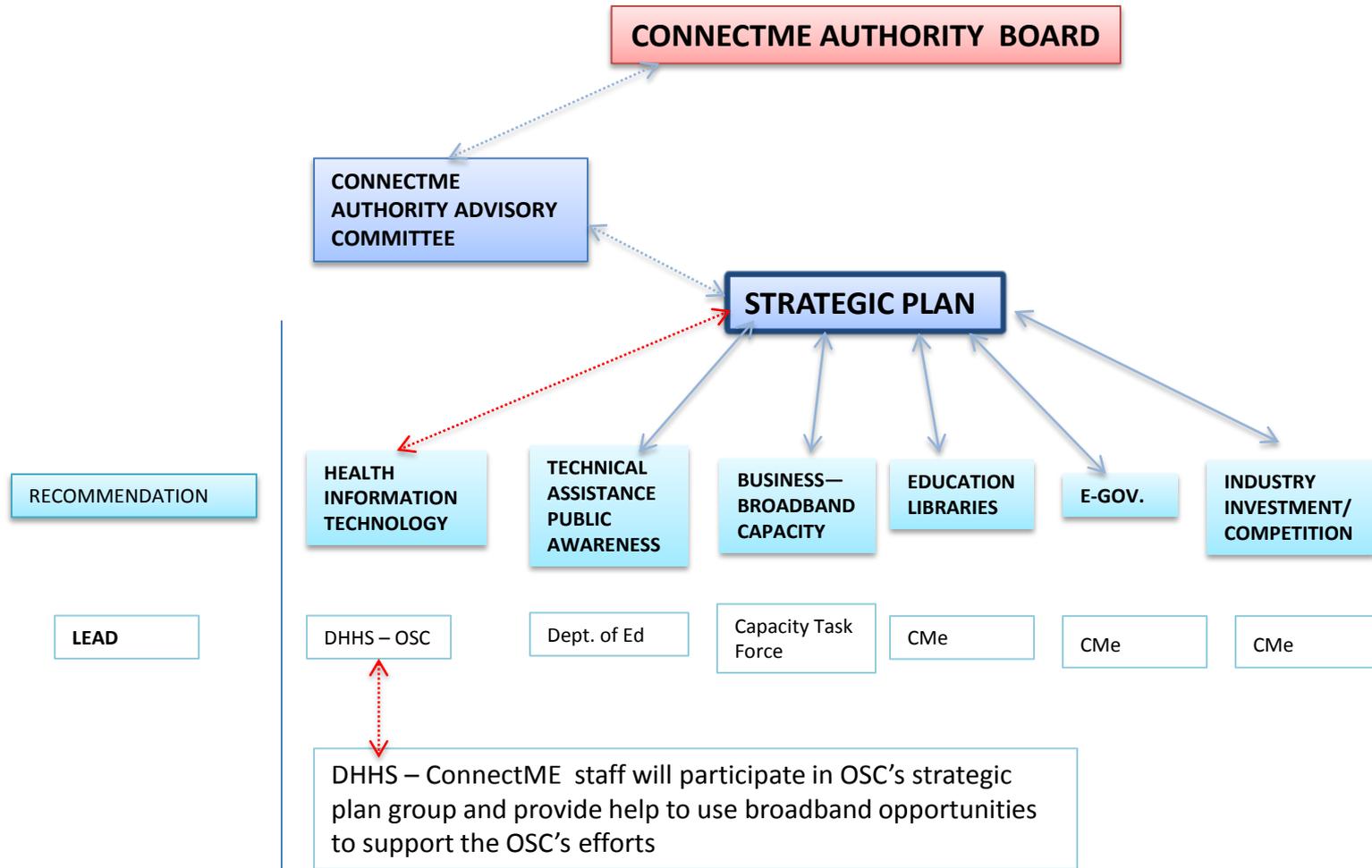
ConnectMe Authority Strategic Plan

May 2012

Broadband Strategy – Healthcare

- *For the healthcare industry:* The Authority will work with decision makers of the Health Information Technology (HIT) initiatives and the healthcare community to increase broadband use to improve the efficiency and quality of healthcare and health outcomes.

CONNECTME AUTHORITY STRATEGIC PLAN -- RECOMMENDATION TOPICS



Strategies and Action Items

1. To achieve efficiencies and improve health outcomes, EHR systems and exchange of data need high speed internet access. Understanding the barriers to the adoption of broadband technologies, including cost, is an important step to extending HIT services.

Strategy No. 1 Action Items

- Work with stakeholder agencies under the OSC Plan, to define the benefits of increased telemedicine and EHR adoption and develop programs to educate the community of providers on the benefits of broadband and HIT adoption.
- Engage with their key stakeholder agencies to determine if the cost or delivery characteristics of broadband service are limiting factors to the recognition of HIT benefits.
- Use the National Broadband Plan as a source for collaborative ideas.
- Based on these collaborative findings, help develop policies and initiatives designed to increase network capacity to support HIT applications and reduce barriers to adoption inherent in the broadband network.

Strategy No. 2

2. In alignment with the National Broadband Plan, support efforts that promote HIT, including telemedicine and the exchange of clinical and claims data, which will result in higher broadband take rates and more efficient healthcare.
 - Participate in the OSC work group to support efforts that promote broadband adoption as part of the increased use of telehealth services.
 - Monitor federal HIT program requirements and policies and address these as needed.

Strategy No. 3 and Action Items

3. Promote the advancement of communications systems that support mobile health.

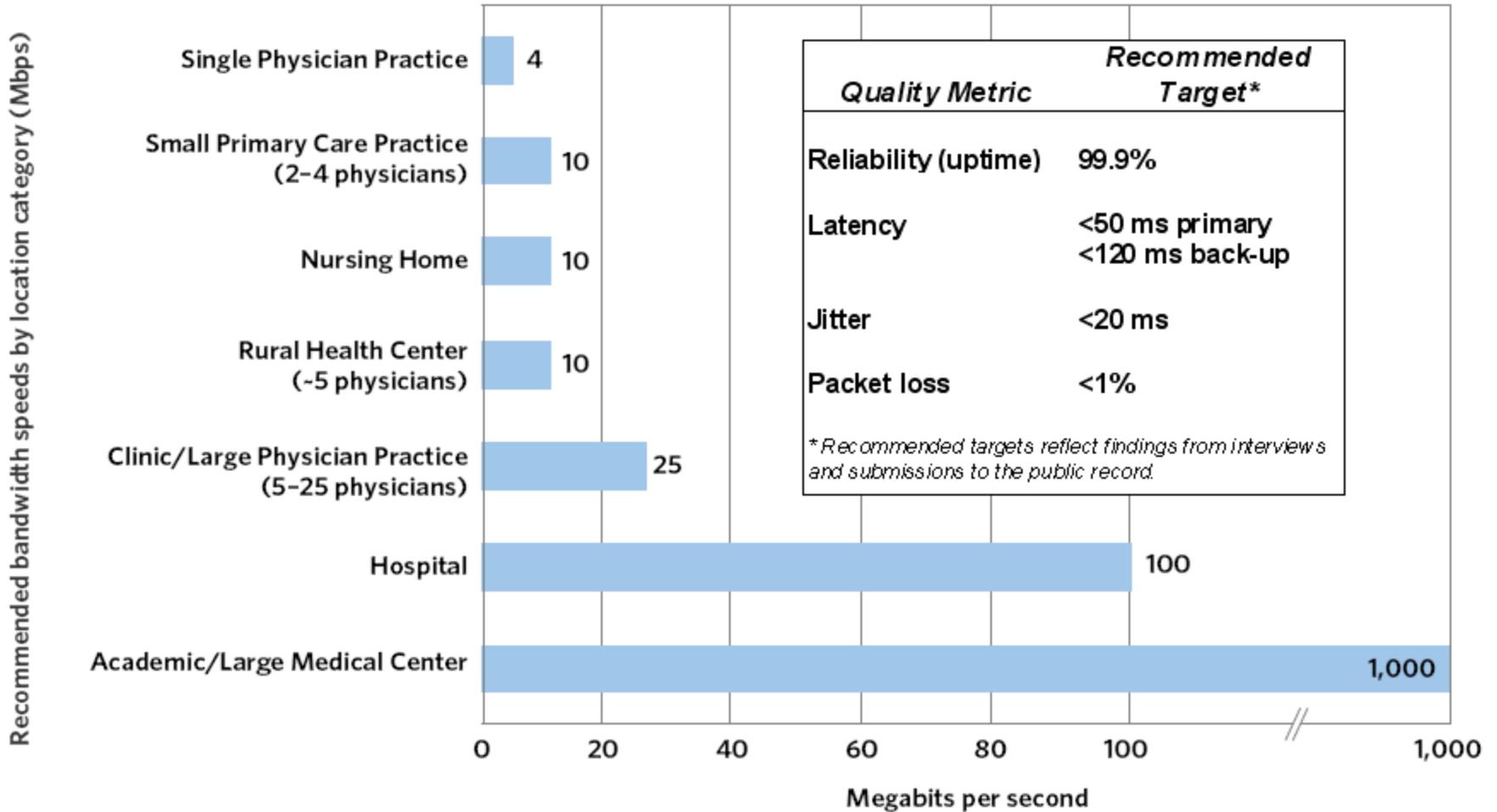
- Work with providers of mobile health systems to define the telecommunications technologies and platforms to support these applications, and work with policy makers and mobile telecommunications providers to increase deployment and adoption of these systems tailored to Maine's needs.

Strategy No. 4 and Action Items

4. Work with broadband service providers to increase capacity and speed of service to healthcare providers.

- Work with service providers to increase the standard capacity available throughout the State, working toward a goal of affordable 10 Mbps standard broadband service available to small and rural healthcare providers by 2015.

Standards for Health Care Broadband



Conclusion

- ConnectME Authority looks forward to continued collaboration and integration with Office of State Coordinator's and stakeholders to provide assistance with HealthCare HIT broadband opportunities