

Linda Molinar

What kind of impact could the technology were testing today have on a town like Presidio?

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When you're so remote, everything's a drive and you know, it's difficult, you know, I can think of COVID time, when COVID hid, you know, we had to go pick up, I had to go pick up the medications from Pfizer all the way to Midland Hospital, from Alpine, that's three hour drive, and then drive them back and then stop in Alpine drop some medications, there or vaccines that drop some in Marfa, then drop some all the way to Presidio. You know, for me, that was almost a 12 hour shift that day, and I needed to make sure they came in time. And when I got here, the first time, this whole parking space back here was full of people that were like in their 80s or 90s, or so that they had heard through the grapevine that I was bringing vaccines, you know, I only brought 100 vaccines the first time, that's all and I had, like 300 people waiting in our living rooms. And, you know, I extended that door, and I was the one filling out the applications and determining who would get one right now. And who wouldn't. I didn't want my staff to go through that. And if I would have had a drone like this, it could have gone and picked up more. Because there were only good for three days, the hospital was willing to give us more. But I didn't know what the demand was going to exist. I could have gotten them that same day, we could have been able to vaccinate all those people, we were able to vaccinate the community Presidio. And we were number one in the state of Texas for several months, but it required that it required from me, or somebody in my staff to do a long drive that, you know, it was over 10 hours just to get vaccinations because we didn't have you know, those type of refrigerators that requested. With a piece of technology. Like the drones, that would not be an issue, you know, vaccines medications can be here. You know, we have a 340b pharmacy and we have patients that come from everywhere. And we do now telehealth, but it's no good if I can't get the medications to them. So how do I get a medication to a patient that's in Terlingua? You know, we do medications like hepatitis C, they're very expensive. They're like 30,000, 40,000, our patients are able to afford them through a 340b. But if they don't have them the day they need them. You know all that treatment is for nothing. And so I can see how a project like a drone, they can facilitate things faster. Without actually a human being having to drive can make easier things for here.

Why is this project so important to you?

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One person just described me as a person that I don't complain, I do something about it. So if the state is not sending us vaccines for my people in my community, you know the time we need them, I will drive to the vaccines. I will do whatever it takes to get my community what they need. And that's why I'm supportive of this drones. I can think of myself when my baby was born. You know, I was 21 never had any preventive. I didn't even know I was pregnant until I was seven months pregnant. When my baby was born. He had a cleft lip. You know, we saw the doctor I was released from the doctor came home, my baby would cry for two weeks, and I didn't know what was wrong. When I finally called the doctor because I didn't want to bother him. I found out that I had the wrong type of bottles for feeding my kid. You know, they

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decided that the nearest plays they had on was Fort Stockton, which for me during that time would have been at least a five hour drive. You know, I couldn't afford a five hour drive. I'm a college kid didn't own a car. So I waited, I waited for them to get in the mail. You know from Fort Stockton, the mail goes to Midland from Midland it goes to El Paso from El Paso finally makes it to Marfa. And then I got the bottles a week and a half after I had to feed my son with a straw for a week and a half. So when we talk about healthcare, I am very passionate and I can see how something like this like a drone could have got me my bottles within a day. You know, we talk about all the things these drones can do and there is wonderful things can do. But there's simple things that can save people's life like simple bottles to get us into this community. You know my son without milk for two weeks, in a country that we say it's rich. You asked me could I have gone to Mexico, they don't have them over there. I didn't even think about it because I am proud of where I live. I'm a US citizen and I live in this country, I expect that. And so I don't complain, I just do what I can to help my community. And so when somebody said, are you willing to work on this initiative? Yes, I am.

What are some other struggles that patients are experiencing right now?

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So when it comes to our patients, you know, we live in a community that's frontier Presidio is considered one of the poorest communities. You know, people here mostly speak Spanish. And so healthcare is limited, very limited. But can you imagine, our geriatric patients have to drive or have to get up at three in the morning so they can get the little bus that takes them to go see their doctor by five in the morning be picked up, and they have to go all the way to Odessa sometimes, you know, to see their doctor. It's great that they can come here, but we don't have those expertise and sometimes we don't have the medication they need immediately, they can't wait, you know, for the post office or UPS to bring them because UPS and post office is not the same day delivery, like in other communities, it takes us a week to get things here. So we have something like this, you know, the patients can be seen here. You know, now there's telehealth so people could come to our clinics, we can do all that checkup. You know, when a doctor somewhere else could offer the service. But it's no good if we don't have the medications. So it goes back to that we can fix certain things, but there's things that we need technology to be there, and drones is the way to get to these people, the medications and time when they need it. You know, it's very sad, I have to come to visit the office. And I get calls of patients saying, Could you bring us a glucometer from Alpine. And I go to three pharmacists, and I can't find one. So then there I am trying to call somebody else who can bring one from Odessa. So the patient could get it. You know, after three days that could come in, or it might not even be any good. Why? Because the patient already maybe figure something else how to deal with their diabetes. We have to work smarter, and drones is a way of working smarter.

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Anything else to add?

7:19

I think healthcare is full of challenges. And we need to make it easier. Why do we go to other countries and see they have better health care than we do? Why? Why can't it be here? Why does it have to be so political? Why can't we see something that's wrong and just fix it? And we all know things are wrong. You know, everything is very pricey in health care. If you don't have a full time job, you can't even afford medications. And that's why 340b program is one of the best programs out there because people that can't afford medications can still receive the right medication for the right treatment that they need.