SOUTH CAROLINA
Telehealth
ALLIANCE

SC Telehealth Alliance Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes

Date:	Thursday, May 17, 2018
Time:	1:00PM – 2:00PM
Location:	Interim Call
Present:	Amelia Bischoff (Palmetto Health), Robert Bank (SCDMH), Stewart Cooner (SCDMH), Rick Foster (SCHA), Don Godish (SCETV), Sam Head (SCDHHS), Adrian Grimes (MUSC), Ryan Kruis (SCTA), John Magill (SCDMH), Jimmy McElligott (MUSC), Meera Narasimhan (USC), Christianna Novakovic (CCI), Blix Rice (CCI), Kathy Schwarting (PCC)
Facilitated by:	Jimmy McElligott
Recorded by:	Ryan Kruis
Next meeting:	Thursday, June 28, 2018 from 1-3PM
	SC Department of Mental Health | 2414 Bull St, Columbia, SC 29201
	Conference line: 843-876-8703 | Passcode: 728282

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

2. **SCTA Procedural and Operational Items**
    a. **Filling vacancies:** Kathy Rhoad, Interim Associate Vice President of Strategic Planning and Marketing at RMC Orangeburg, has agreed to fill the *community hospital* seat on the Advisory Council. She will be joining the group at the in-person meeting in June and will bring valuable experience to the group.
    b. **Contracts/Equipment Requests/Awarded Grants:**
        - Service/Equipment Requests:
            o *Mary Black Health System – Gaffney:* Mary Black Health System asked for inpatient psych support. This request was initially referred to GHS, but was then referred back to MUSC due to GHS's limited capacity to provide inpatient psych.
            o *Lexington County Schools:* Lexington County Schools requested school-based telehealth services. This request was referred to Palmetto Health who is taking the lead on service development.
            o Both these request/referral processes demonstrate the success of the recently implemented program request form process.
        - Contracts:
            o *Contract with USC School of Medicine*: A contract for Dr. Narasimhan's efforts around outcomes and evaluation (Strategy 7) is currently under review at USC.

- Grants:
  - *Duke Endowment Grants:* The Department of Mental Health received two Duke Endowment grants, one focused on school-based telemental health and the other on integrating APRNs into their existing programs. MUSC also received a Duke Endowment grant for the use of telehealth with palliative care.
  - *MUSC Center of Excellence:* The MUSC Center of Excellence received increased funding for Year 2 of the HRSA-grant.

3. **SCTA Stakeholder Meeting:**
   - Plans are underway to host the first SC telehealth stakeholders meeting later this summer, jointly sponsored by the SCTA and PCC.
   - This meeting will provide an opportunity for more organizations to learn about, participate in, and shape the various telehealth initiatives around the state.

4. **Reimbursement**
   a. **Reimbursement Priorities Document:**
      - The regional hubs have been drafting a list of additional payer coverage priorities to be used in conversations with payers. An updated draft of the document will be shared with the council for review and discussion at the next meeting.
      - This aligns with Tactic 6.2 of the strategic plan to "establish unified opinions and priorities on SCTA issues."
      - The group noted the importance of including an increase in the referring site fee as a priority, especially for smaller, rural healthcare providers.
   b. **Blue Cross Blue Shield Policies**
      - Adrian Grimes discussed updates to BCBS's telemedicine and telehealth policies, specifically noting that the patient home and schools are now covered for video visit.
      - For further information, council members can reference BCBS's telemedicine and telehealth policies on its policy website.
      - More information will also be provided at the upcoming SCTA Billing Bootcamp on June 13.

5. **2018 Quarter 1 Report**
   - A final draft of the 2018 Quarter 1 report was shared with the SCTA Advisory Council. Jimmy McElligott shared high level highlights from the report.
   - All requested edits are due to Ryan Kruis by no later than Friday, May 18, COB.

6. **APRN Legislation Discussion**
   - The group discussed the success of the recent APRN legislation, which loosens restrictions on APRN telehealth practice. Council members affirmed the SCTA for its united advocacy efforts around this legislation.
   - PCC is planning to host a webinar with Darra Coleman from the LLR about the new legislation in early June. Council members are encouraged to advertise this opportunity within their networks.

7. **"Parking Lot":** A number of topics were brought up as items to be discussed at future meetings or to be incorporated into the fall SCTA Strategic Planning. These include:
   a. **ECHO Models**
      - Rick Foster noted that it is important we include ECHO programs in SCTA strategic planning and reporting.
      - Ryan Kruis noted that this is currently being worked on as part of Tactic 5.3 of the current strategic plan.
   b. **Remote Home Monitoring**
      - Council members brought up interest in better understanding privacy concerns as they relate to remote home monitoring, especially with this modality being increasingly covered by payers.
      - It was suggested that this might be brought into the fall strategy sessions to be looked at more in depth.
   c. **Integrating Behavioral Health into Primary Care**
      - Rick Foster noted that the Behavioral Health Coalition is exploring different reimbursement models for integrating BH into primary care settings, and telehealth is part of that conversation.
      - It was suggested that this too might be discussed in the fall strategy sessions.
   d. **Free Clinics**
      - The group discussed the low utilization of telehealth within free clinics, suggesting this might also be a topic to wrap into the fall strategic planning as well.

8. **Next SCTA In-Person Meeting:**
   Date/Time: Thursday, June 28, 2018 from 1-3PM
   Location: SC Department of Mental Health | 2414 Bull St, Columbia, SC 29201
   Call-in Option: 843-876-8703, passcode 728282