

SOUTH CAROLINA Telehealth ALLIANCE

SCTA Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, February 15th, 2024, 1:00PM – 2:30PM

In-person, MUSC Center for Telehealth

Meeting Attendees:

Ragan Richardson, Sonya Ebeling, Jimmy McElligott (SCTA/MUSC), Jennifer Pysz, Emily Warr, Peter Gardella (MUSC), Christian Steen, Carley Howard-Draddy, Robin Gadd-Lane, Tina Myers (Prisma), Margaret Meriwether, Chad Pollock (SCDMH), Zenora Saelua (SCDHHS), Ryan Burnaugh (KMSO), Kate Miccichi (McLeod), Matt Hiatt (PCC), Elizabeth Harmon (SCHA), John Magill (member-at-large)

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Wins

- a. Welcome MUSC Center for Telehealth's new Telehealth Education Manager, Jen Pysz. In addition to her duties at MUSC, Jen will be assisting with SCTA-related telehealth education initiatives.
- b. The SCTA, in collaboration with MUSC and Palmetto Care Connection (PCC), is hosting a free School-based Telehealth Billing Webinar on February 28 from 12-1pm. Register [here](#).
- c. SCETV released two [videos](#) thus far in 2024, the SC Department of Mental Health's Emergency Department Telepsychiatry Program, and a PCC Telehealth Summit of SC Recap.
 - The team looks forward to capturing several other SC telehealth programs throughout the year, including CareSouth's Tele-MAT (Medication Assisted Recovery), MUSC's Tele-ICU, Prisma's Telehealth Eating Disorder, MUSC Mom's IMPACTT (Improving Access to Maternal Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Care Through Telemedicine and Tele-Mentoring), and others.

2. SCTA Procedural and Operational Items

- a. **SCTA CY24 Operational Procedures**
 - Advisory Council members were provided the SCTA CY24 Advisory Council Operating Procedures one week prior to the meeting to review. No changes were suggested or made.
- b. **SCTA FY25 Budget**
 - SCTA leadership presented the FY25 SCTA proposed budget:
 - Budget changes from FY24 to FY25 were reviewed without further comment.
 - Emphasized continued spend down with no anticipated changes to FY25 partner funding.

3. SCTA Statewide Strategic Plan & Reports

- a. **CY23Q4 Report Highlights**
 - Please reference the SCTA CY23Q4 Report to learn how SCTA partners continue to advance and sustain telehealth in our state!

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b. 2023 SCTA Annual Report Theme

- The theme for the 2023 SCTA Annual Report is ***Community Focused, Equity Driven!***
- The 2023 Telehealth Champion letter will be written in memory of Dr. Rick Foster.
- The SCTA administrative team is working to pull together the great work of SCTA partners to formulate the 2023 Report. A finalized draft will be shared with the advisory council for review in late April or early May.

c. CY24 Statewide Strategic Plan Overview

- The finalized [CY2024 SCTA Statewide Strategic Plan](#) took effect in January 2024.
- SCTA partners will continue to report progress on the outlined strategic deliverables in SCTA quarterly reports.

4. Legislative and Advocacy Efforts

a. H. Bill 4159 Update

- [House Bill 4159: Telehealth and Telemedicine Modernization Act](#) introduced last year, unanimously passed through the SC House of Representatives during CY23Q2 and most recently passed through the the SC Senate during CY24Q1. The bill is awaiting ratification and the Governor's signature before enactment. *The SCTA team will continue to provide updates as the bill progresses.*

b. 2024 Payer Priorities

- Advisory council members reviewed CY2024 SCTA payer priorities which were updated accordingly and can be found on the [SC Payer Telehealth Coverage Scorecard](#), located on the SCTA website.
- The group also reviewed and discussed the current payer coverage snapshot as of early February, with details as to when certain flexibilities expire, and next steps for collaboration and advocacy.
- The expanded Mental Health providers are a large focus and will be pulled into a separate priority.
- Advisory Council members were also asked to bring forward any additional priorities for inclusion.

5. SCTA Stakeholder Retreat

- As requested by the SCTA's Clinical Partner Workgroup, the SCTA plans to host a retreat in the Spring, open to all SCTA telehealth stakeholders, to showcase SC telehealth programs, identify collaborative opportunities, and learn from each other.
- SCTA Manager, Ragan Richardson will be reaching out to gather discussion topic ideas, dates, duration, etc.
- More details to come as details are finalized.

6. Next SCTA Advisory Council Meeting:

- ### a. Thursday, May 16th, 2024 from 1:00PM – 2:00PM (Virtual)