

SOUTH CAROLINA Telehealth ALLIANCE

SCTA Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 15th, 2024, 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Virtual – Microsoft Teams

Meeting Attendees:

James McElligott, Ragan Richardson Bishop, Zharia Jeffries (SCTA), Kevin Bennett (SC CRPH), Allie Dodd (MUSC), Don Godish (SCETV), Elizabeth Harmon (SCHA), Kathy Schwarting (PCC), Margaret Meriwether (SC DMH), Robin Gadd-Lane (Prisma), Zenora Saelua (SC DHHS)

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Wins

2. PCC Telehealth Summit of SC (Oct 28-30, Hilton Head Island, SC)

- a. The 2024 Palmetto Care Connections Telehealth Summit of South Carolina will take place October 28-30 at The Westin Resort & Spa on Hilton Head Island, SC.
- b. Visit [PCC's website](#) to access early-bird attendee registration, discounted hotel room blocks, and view a schedule at a glance.
- c. Please contact Davia Smith (davias@palmettocareconnections.org) with specific questions.

3. South Carolina Telehealth Awareness Week (September 15-21)

- a. South Carolina will celebrate its statewide Telehealth Awareness Week (TAW), September 15-21, in alignment with the American Telemedicine Association's National TAW!
- b. TAW is an opportunity for organizations to engage with their communities, patients, staff, and others to promote the telehealth services they offer, and share the great impact telehealth has locally, statewide, and nationally.
- c. SCTA social media accounts will be active throughout the week, sharing new and past SCETV SC telehealth videos, statewide telehealth achievements, and organization-specific telehealth offerings. Please encourage your organizations to post and repost during the week to bring as much awareness as possible to telehealth in our state!
- d. The SCTA team is also compiling a calendar of SC TAW events throughout the week to share broadly with stakeholders. If your organization is planning to participate during the week, please pass over any event details to SCTA Administrative Assistant, Zharia Jeffries (zharia@sctelehealth.org).

4. SCTA Statewide Strategic Plan & Reports

a. CY24Q2 Report Highlights

- Advisory Council members took time during the meeting to share highlights from their SCTA CY24Q2 Report sections.
- Please reference the report located on the SCTA website to learn how SCTA partners continue to advance and sustain telehealth in our state.

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b. CY25 Strategic Planning

- The process for curating the CY25 SCTA Statewide Strategic Plan will follow the same format as last year.
 - In September, the focus will be gathering SCTA partner telehealth deliverables and goals for CY25.
 - October will be spent discussing these plans with the SCTA team and combining efforts to draft a cohesive plan that encompasses the goals of each SCTA partner.
 - The drafted plan will be presented to the Advisory Council during the November 2024 meeting prior to finalizing the plan in December.
- Looking ahead to CY26, the SCTA team plans to dedicate time during CY25 to reevaluate the strategic plan format to better capture the evolving telehealth landscape in SC.

5. Legislative and Advocacy Efforts

a. Federal Updates – Physician Fee Schedule

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released the [Physician Fee Schedule for CY25](#) in July and comment submissions are open until early September.
- The schedule remains telehealth friendly, however, legislative action is needed to extend a number of CMS flexibilities.

b. Medicare Flexibilities

- There are several active proposed legislations that aim to extend or make permanent the Medicare telehealth flexibilities which are slated to end on December 31, 2024.
- To showcase our eagerness for extensions, the SCTA is organizing a letter of support to submit to Congress with supporting signatures from various stakeholders across SC. The goal is to submit the letter during Telehealth Awareness Week in September to align with other supporting efforts. Please be on the lookout for a formal request asking for your organization to sign on in support.

6. Next SCTA Advisory Council Meeting:

- a. *Thursday, November 21st, 2024 from 1:00– 2:00 PM, Virtual*