

SOUTH CAROLINA Telehealth ALLIANCE

SCTA Advisory Council Minutes

Thursday, May 15th, 2025, 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Virtual – Microsoft Teams

Meeting Attendees:

Jimmy McElligott, Sonya Ebeling, Kelsy Arellano (SCTA), Don Godish (SCETV), Kathy Schwarting (PCC), Ebony Legette (McLeod), Lisa Kopera, Carley Howard Draddy, Chandler Oswald (Prisma), Ryan Burnaugh (SCHA), Eman Sharawy, and Margaret Meriwether (SCDMH)

1. Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

- a. SCTA welcomes its new Administrative Assistant, Kelsy Arellano! Kelsy supports the SCTA and MUSC Center for Telehealth. We are excited to have her join the team. Kelsy can be reached at kelsy@sctelehealth.org
- b. [Palmetto Care Connection's \(PCC\) 13th Annual Telehealth Summit of South Carolina](#) will take place in Charleston, SC from **October 28-30, 2025**, at The Francis Marion Hotel.
- c. Call for presentation and poster abstracts is now open, with a submission deadline of **June 30th, 2025** for presentation abstracts and **July 31st, 2025** for poster abstracts. If you're interested in participating please [click here](#) for your presentation submissions and [here](#) for poster submissions.
- d. SCDMH welcomes its new Assistant Deputy Director, Eman Sharawy to the team!
- e. SCTA Stakeholder Retreat will take place on **June 10, 2025**, at SCETV Columbia from 9:30 AM–2:00 PM. Consisting of morning group sessions and afternoon breakouts covering SCTA strategy, billing, policy, school-based care, virtual nursing, virtual primary/specialty care, digital literacy, and technology/broadband.

2. SCTA Statewide Strategic Plan & Reports

- a. CY25Q1 Report Highlights
 - Members of the Advisory Council shared highlights from their SCTA CY25Q1 Report sections.
 - The Q1 Report will soon be available to view on the [SCTA Report Webpage](#). Please reference the report located on the SCTA website to learn how SCTA partners continue to advance and sustain telehealth in our state.
- b. 2024 SCTA Annual Report Highlights
 - The 2024 SCTA Annual Report celebrates 10 years of the South Carolina Telehealth Alliance with the theme *A Decade of Collaboration!*
 - The full report is available on our website, and hard copies will be provided at the SCTA Retreat.
 - We are excited to share a few highlights from the report in 2024:
 - **1.2 million+** overall telehealth interactions
 - **99,130+** asynchronous telehealth interactions
 - **834,720+** synchronous telehealth interactions
 - **884** SCTA-supported telehealth sites
 - **1,400** CoCM visits with 271+ new patients enrolled
 - **6,120+** overall school-based telehealth visits

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- Notable highlights accumulated over the past decade:
 - **8.43 million+** overall telehealth interactions since 2014
 - **4.37 million+** synchronous ambulatory visits since 2018
 - **562,780+** tele-ICU interactions since 2016
 - **567,640** overall virtual Urgent Care visits in SC since 2015 inception
 - **1.65 million+** remote patient monitoring interactions

3. SCTA Workgroup Report Out

a. School-based Telehealth

- Largest SCTA workgroup, representation from health systems, DMH, FQHCs, Department of Education, and DHHS.
 - The meeting begins with partner roundtables, where attendees provide operational updates, share best practices, introduce new program employees, and discuss current initiatives around ongoing training for school nurses, as well as efforts to expand and increase volume.
 - In March, DHHS shared that it is collaborating with the School-Based Telehealth Program to develop a behavioral health tele-presenting training. This initiative requires all behavioral health tele-presenters to be properly certified.
 - The group also engaged in a discussion focused on end-of-school-year planning and best practices. Participants shared updates from various programs, including Little River, BJH Comp, and larger health systems.

b. Pediatric

- While there is some overlap with the School-Based Workgroup, this group primarily focuses on children's hospitals across the state, as well as inpatient and medically complex pediatric programs.
- Efforts are underway to integrate more ambulatory pediatric care into future discussions and planning.
- Meetings typically include partner roundtables, introductions of new programs and provider staff, updates on operational optimizations, and announcements about new programs or expansions.
- For future meetings, the group proposes selecting a rotating topic to allow for a deeper dive. These sessions may include guest speakers, potentially could turn into webinars, etc.
 - Suggested topics include:
 - Pediatric e-Consults
 - Pediatric palliative care
 - Ongoing billing/coding and reimbursement educational opportunities

c. Education

- This workgroup is led by Kathy Schwarting, Michele Stanek, and Jen Pysz, with participation from MUSC, PCC, AHEC, USC (CCHA and CRPH), and partner health systems.
- Meetings typically include roundtables and updates on public-facing resources and materials from partners including PCC sharing updates of their digital literacy trainings on their website, and attendees provide insights into current projects and initiatives.

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- There are ongoing efforts to develop a statewide telehealth education landing page, which will align with a planned website revamp scheduled for summer or fall of 2025.
 - In preparation for this, Jen Pysz is creating a repository of public-facing telehealth education and training resources for our review at the next workgroup meeting on June 26, at 10:00-11:00 AM.
 - Michele Stanek, representing CRPH, has contributed valuable insight into the educational needs of rural clinics that the group may not know about.
 - The Center of Community alignment is also involved, bringing an important perspective to the Workgroup.
 - d. **Technology Workgroup?**
 - SCTA is considering the possibility of restarting the **Technology Workgroup** and is open to feedback. We're interested in hearing your thoughts and gauging whether there is enough interest!
 - If you're not currently part of our existing Workgroups but would like to get involved, please let us know!
4. **Telehealth Access Efforts**
- a. In 2024, we saw success with the Modernization Act in the State House and continue to monitor and support efforts for telehealth sustainability and policy reimbursement in SC.
 - b. This past session, several telehealth-related bills were introduced, including:
 - Tele-registration for out-of-state providers
 - APRN virtual supervision (2 bills)
 - c. These are all important issues impacting telehealth access in SC. However, the session ended with the bills in various committees, with hospital associations and other Stakeholders continuing to address access concerns.
 - d. Our aim through summer and into the next session is to convene a coalition to address telehealth access barriers holistically and draft legislation for introduction in January, and to enact policy changes to remove telehealth access barriers in our state.
 - e. SCTA will collaborate with Stakeholders over the coming months to define what access-focused telehealth legislation should look like- to identify the barriers preventing wider impact and growth in SC.
 - f. We will also share operational insights on user experience and highlight what's driving strong ROI for hospitals in SC.
 - g. We're looking forward to diving into the 2026 strategy and hearing key updates from the Access Coalition at our next Advisory Council meeting.
5. **Next SCTA Advisory Council Meeting**
- a. Thursday, August 21st, 2025, 1:00 – 2:00 PM, *Virtual – Microsoft Teams*.