

# SOUTH CAROLINA Telehealth ALLIANCE

## SCTA Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 1:00PM – 2:00PM  
Virtual – Microsoft Teams

### ATTENDEES:

Ragan Richardson (SCTA), Jimmy McElligott, Jennifer Pysz, Samantha D’Orio (MUSC), Don Godish (SCETV), Lisa Kopera, Christian Steen, Tina Myers, Robin Gadd-Lane (Prisma), Margaret Meriwether, Robert Bank (SCDMH), Sam Head, Zenora Saelua (SCDHHS), Ryan Burnaugh (KMSO), Kate Miccichi (McLeod), Kath Schwarting (PCC)

### 1. Welcome, Introductions, and Wins

### 2. 2023 Annual SC Telehealth Summit

- The 11th Annual Telehealth Summit of South Carolina, hosted by Palmetto Care Connections (PCC) will be held December 4-6th in Greenville, SC at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.
- The PCC team is working to finalize the [agenda](#) with sessions including, Billing & Reimbursement Bootcamp, How Telehealth Impacts Rural Communities, Addressing Maternal Health, Broadband Access and Adoption, Legislative Keynote Panel, etc.
- The hotel block and registration are closed, however, you may still register by contacting Davia Smith, or by registering in person on the first day of the Summit.
- If you have any questions regarding the Summit, please reach out to Davia Smith [davias@plamettocareconnections.org](mailto:davias@plamettocareconnections.org)

### 3. SCTA Statewide Strategic Plan

#### a. CY23Q3 Report Highlights

- Please reference the SCTA CY23Q3 Report to learn how SCTA partners continue to advance and sustain telehealth in our state!

#### b. Finalize CY2024 Strategic Plan

- The SCTA completed the process below to finalize the CY2024 SCTA Strategic Plan:
  - **September** – Clinical partners drafted their CY24 telehealth deliverables. The SCTA team combined these deliverables into cohesive strategic tactics.
  - **October** – Support partners were provided the clinical strategic tactics to help identify their CY24 telehealth deliverables. The SCTA team combined support partner deliverables into cohesive support tactics.
  - **November** – A final draft of the CY24 plan was distributed to SCTA Advisory Council members one week prior to the Q4 meeting for review. Members approved the plan during the Q4 meeting.
  - **December** – The finalized CY2024 SCTA Strategic Plan will be sent to SC DHHS and posted on the SCTA website prior to the new year.
  - **CY2024** – Partners will report CY24 strategic tactic progress in SCTA quarterly reports throughout the year.

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#### 4. Legislative and Advocacy Efforts

##### a. 2024 Legislative Session

- The SCTA, alongside the SC Medical Association and SC Hospital Association, introduced [House Bill 4159: Telehealth and Telemedicine Modernization Act](#) during CY23Q1 outlining goals to **introduce a new definition of “telehealth”** and **modernize telehealth prescribing language**. This bill unanimously passed through the House of Representatives during CY23Q2 and will be introduced to the SC Senate’s Medical Affairs Committee in 2024 during the next legislative session.
- During the coming months, the SCTA team will actively work alongside SC legislators and payers to align efforts in preparation for the progression of the bill.

##### b. SC Telehealth Parity Survey Results

- The SCTA’s Rural and Primary Care Telehealth Workgroup distributed a SC Telehealth Provider Perspective Parity Survey which aimed to understand SC provider perspectives on the potential impact of requiring telehealth parity in our state, and to identify any other potential barriers to telehealth use.
- The SCTA Rural and Primary Care Telehealth Workgroup will be analyzing the survey results to formulate strategies aimed at improving and expanding telehealth use.
  - If you would like to be added to the SCTA Rural and Primary Care Telehealth Workgroup, please reach out to Samantha D’Orio, [samantha@sctelehealth.org](mailto:samantha@sctelehealth.org).
- Brief highlights from survey results include:
  - 325 responses
  - 207 free response comments
  - Top three barriers to telehealth use identified: Technical Difficulties, Patient Digital Literacy, and Reimbursement

##### c. Federal Telehealth Updates

- On November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#) published the [Final Rule for the 2024 Physician Fee Schedule \(PFS\)](#) in the Federal Register. Outlined in the PFS are Medicare program policy changes that are set to go into effect on January 1, 2024 (unless stated otherwise). Several telehealth-related changes are included in the final rule.
- The [Center for Connected Health Policy \(CCHP\)](#) created a helpful [CY2024 Final PFS Factsheet](#) which lists and describes each telehealth-related change included in the final rule.

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**5. SCTA 2023 Annual Report**

- SCTA Manager, Ragan Richardson, will begin creating the SCTA 2023 Annual Report in January.
- SCTA partners will receive outreach in December on any content or data needs.
- Stay tuned for more information and ways your organization can be showcased throughout the report!

**6. Next SCTA Advisory Council Meeting:**

- a. Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 1:00PM – 2:30PM  
Location TBD