

SOUTH CAROLINA
Telehealth
ALLIANCE

SCTA Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, February 16th, 2023, 1:00PM – 2:30PM

SC Department of Mental Health

Meeting Attendees:

Jimmy McElligott, Ragan Richardson, Sonya Ebeling, Sam D’Orio (MUSC/SCTA), Peter Gardella (MUSC), Amelia Gainey (Prisma), Kate Miccichi (McLeod), Kathy Schwarting (PCC), Elizabeth Harmon (SCHA), Robert Bank, Margaret Meriwether (SC DMH), Sam Head (SC DHHS), Don Godish (SCETV), Ryan Burnaugh (KMSO), Rick Foster, John Magill (Members-at-Large)

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Wins

- a. The Healthcare Leadership Council presented Palmetto Care Connections with the Redefining American Healthcare Award on February 15, 2023. The purpose of the award is to draw attention to existing initiatives that effectively address and improve health inequities.

2. SCTA Procedural and Operational Items

a. SCTA CY23 Operational Procedures

- Advisory Council members received a copy of the CY2023 SCTA Advisory Council Operating Procedures with proposed updates via email to review prior to the meeting.
- This document acts as the Council’s charter, which we review and renew annually, during the first quarter Advisory Council meeting.
- CY2023 SCTA Operation Procedures proposed updates:
 - SCTA inquiries contact updated: Ragan Richardson, SCTA Manager
 - Charter effective date updated: March 1, 2023
 - Document version updated: V2023
- The council approved the CY2023 SCTA Advisory Operational Procedures document and it is now finalized.

b. SCTA FY24 Budget

- Each year, during the first quarter SCTA Advisory Council meeting, council members are presented with the upcoming SCTA fiscal year budget.
- The SCTA FY24 budget was presented to the Council in a new format, focusing on the overall revenues, expenses, and remaining funds. This format reflects the commitment to maintain state funding for SCTA partners while aiming to fulfill strategic goals.
- There were great discussions around the budget’s details during the meeting, and Council members expressed a desire to better understand the breakdown of state dollars vs. operational dollars.
- The Council’s comments will be taken into consideration for next year’s presentation, and the partners were offered to continue the conversation in one-on-one conversations with SCTA leadership.

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3. SCTA Statewide Strategic Plan

a. CY23 Statewide Strategic Plan Overview

- The CY23 statewide plan was simplified to showcase overarching tactics under each SCTA strategy, followed by supporting tactics.
- While quarterly milestones are not included in the CY23 written plan, SCTA partners are expected to report their progress in SCTA quarterly reports throughout the year and share during SCTA Advisory Council meetings.
- The Council discussed areas of focus for the new calendar year, including an interest in understanding gaps in rural hospital coverage for telestroke and ED tele-psych.
- The group also expressed interest in a streamlined approach to displaying partners' initiatives and respective priorities, perhaps in the form of a chart or other tracking mechanism.
- The SCTA core team will review and take these suggestions into consideration for the next Advisory Council meeting.

b. CY22Q4 Report Highlights

- Thank you to all SCTA partners for your continued support in providing quarterly strategic telehealth updates on behalf of your organizations. We are grateful for your ongoing engagement and dedication to enhance and expand telehealth initiatives in our state.
- Highlights:
 - **MUSC Health** completed its Charleston market conversion to a new ambulatory video platform, completing over 60,000 ambulatory video visits by 1,000 different providers throughout CY2022.
 - **McLeod Health's** Multi-Disciplinary Review (MDR) program continued to see growth, adding additional specialists to further enrich their team of medical experts and support clinicians.
 - **Prisma Health** launched a new home health hypertension monitoring program and plans to expand using a phased approach in its internal medicine practices.
 - **SC DMH** continued to provide expert telepsychiatry care in 26 hospital emergency departments across the state. The team provided nearly 9,000 consults in CY22, with over 2,060 alone during the quarter.
 - **SC AHEC** rounded the quarter with over 130 individuals successfully completing its telehealth learning modules.
 - **SC ETV** completed its "[SCTA Strategic Video Series](#)" made up of 5 unique videos, representing each SCTA strategy and its programs.
 - **SC CRPH** partnered with the University of South Carolina College of Social Work to conduct a qualitative study on telehealth usage among SC providers. Study findings will be submitted for publication, with a white paper scheduled for release in Spring 2023.
 - **PCC** hosted its 10th Annual Telehealth Summit of South Carolina November 9-10th in Charleston, SC. The event brought in over 240 attendees and 27 sponsors from across SC to discuss telehealth, policy, technology, broadband, and more.

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- Council members are encouraged to review the drafted report they received via email if they have not done so already, and should submit any feedback or edits to SCTA Manager, Ragan Richardson at ragan@sctelehealth.org by EOB, Thursday 2/23.

4. 2022 SCTA Annual Report

a. Overview & Timeline

- A huge thank you to all SCTA partners for your contributions toward the annual report. It is great to see the amazing work and collaboration among SCTA partners!
- The 2022 SCTA Annual Report theme is centered around telehealth integration into healthcare and the larger continuum of care.
- The SCTA team finalized content this month and passed to our marketing experts to create a cohesive document. The SCTA team expects to have a completed draft of the report at the end of March for your review, prior to submitting a final report to SCDHHS by April 1st, 2023.

5. Legislative and Advocacy Efforts

a. SC Telehealth Reimbursement Advocacy

- On February 8th, **SC Medicaid released a bulletin** clarifying that referring site restrictions are permanently waived for all services that are reimbursable when performed via telehealth. The exact language of [MB# 23-008](#) includes:
 - *Referring site restrictions are permanently waived for all services that are reimbursable when performed via telehealth. This includes all telehealth services introduced through PHE flexibilities as well as those available prior to the COVID-19 PHE, which are included in the Physicians Services, Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services, Local Education Agencies Services, Licensed Independent Practitioners Rehabilitative Services, and Community Mental Health Services [provider manuals](#).*
- SCTA leaders continue to work alongside the SC Medical Association and SC Hospital Association to draft telehealth language for a bill to be introduced during this legislative session.
 - SCTA Advisory Council members will be updated on progression and upcoming opportunities for support and engagement.
- The SC Payer Scorecard will be updated and sent to the group, as well as posted on the SCTA website. Council members also suggested potentially sharing the scorecard with legislators as an advocacy tool.
- In addition to the Scorecard tool, Council members suggested circulating a more general telehealth coverage tool to disseminate with practices in anticipation of the end of the PHE. This would be a little more detailed than the scorecard, which only outlines the SCTA priorities, and instead would contain more general information regarding SC payers' coverage of varying provider types and services.
- The SCTA team will brainstorm what this may look like, and what level of detail would be appropriate and useful for practices. The MUSC Compliance team also maintains an in-depth spreadsheet which includes all coverage of all payers, which may be helpful to circulate later this spring once updated.

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b. Federal Telehealth Updates

- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced it's planning to **end the federal PHE for COVID-19 on May 11th, 2023.**
- It is important to note that many telehealth flexibilities in the Medicare program will remain in effect until December 31, 2024, thanks to the [Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023](#), passed late last year.
- HHS released a [Fact Sheet: COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Transition Roadmap](#), with details as to what will be affected. A helpful tool from the [Center for Connected Health Policy](#) (CCHP) is also available on the future of telehealth coverage post-PHE.

6. Next SCTA Advisory Council Meeting:

- a. Thursday, May 18th, 2023 from 1:00PM – 2:00PM
- b. Microsoft Teams