



SCTA Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, February 18, 2021, 1-3PM

Date: Thursday, February 18th, 2021
Time: 1:00pm-3:00pm
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting
Present: Jimmy McElligott (MUSC/SCTA), Ryan Kruis (MUSC/SCTA), Sonya Frankowski (SCTA), Katie King (MUSC/SCTA), Don Godish (SCETV), Stewart Cooner (SCDMH), Robert Bank (SCDMH), Sam Head (SC DHHS), Mandy Williams (SC DHHS), Rick Foster, Jeff Miles (McLeod), Ashley Springs (McLeod), Kathy Schwarting (PCC), Mark Wess (Prisma), Amelia Bischoff (Prisma), Elizabeth Harmon (SCHA)
Facilitated by: Jimmy McElligott
Recorded by: Sonya Frankowski
Next meeting: Thursday, May 20th, 2021 1-3pm via Microsoft Teams

Agenda

1. Introductions and Wins
 - a. MUSC in partnership with PCC received an AHRQ grant award to evaluate telehealth interventions during COVID-19.
 - b. PCC received a grant to train staff as digital literacy educators and navigators.
 - c. Ryan Kruis has stepped into the role of Director of External Affairs and Research, and Sonya Frankowski has stepped into the SCTA Manager role.
 - d. SCDMH is working to implement the Highway to Hope program through a SAMHSA grant awarded last fall. The program will deploy mobile units to 9 rural SC counties to provide mental and primary health care to adults and children. A telehealth component is included in the program model.

2. SCTA Procedural and Operational Items
 - a. The council completed the annual review of its Operating Procedures, which had minimal changes from 2020.
 - The council also discussed a few proposed changes to the SCTA Advisory Council membership, including adding representatives from the Children's Hospital Collaborative and the USC Center for Rural and Primary Health.
 - The intent over time will be for the advisory council to serve as a strategically driven group, aligned with the statewide strategic plan.
 - It's important to note that although the council has a defined membership, meetings are open to any interested party.
 - b. Budget overview

- The council reviewed the SCTA projected budget document, in which partners were informed that due to cost-saving measures implemented at MUSC and last year's \$5 million proviso funds, funds will remain at elevated levels until FY25, instead of decreasing to recurring levels in FY23.
 - Partners will note a decrease in funding in FY22 and FY 23, however the decrease is significantly less than originally anticipated.
 - Additionally, the 90-day spending clause currently in existing agreements will be removed, which will support partners in longer-term strategic and financial planning.
 - Council members underlined the importance of equitable funds distribution across organizations and the importance in evaluating telehealth service areas and setting goals to ensure continued investment in appropriate areas.
 - Partners are welcomed to reach out to the SCTA core team if any follow-up conversations are needed.
- c. SCTA Reporting Update (CY20Q4 and Annual) -
- The SCTA CY20Q4 Report has been sent to partners for review.
 - The report outlines SCTA partners' continued response to COVID-19, and also previews the new strategic plan format.
 - Please provide any feedback to Sonya by Thursday 2/25/21
 - The SCTA 2020 Annual Report drafting is underway, and currently in Marketing for layout. THANK YOU to all partners for their contributions.
 - Moving forward we would like to build a more streamlined data collection process, so partners are encouraged to provide feedback on how this process might be improved.

3. Legislative Update

- a. Contract Lobbyist Ryan Burnaugh of KMSO has been brought in to help support the SCTA's state advocacy efforts.
- Between Ryan and colleague Angelia Smith Owens, KMSO will assist the SCTA through tracking telehealth legislation and advising on best approaches for equitable coverage legislation efforts.
 - The council supported this approach to bring in a shared SCTA lobbyist resource and looks forward to working with Ryan.
 - Ryan Kruis will serve as the point of contact with KMSO for these efforts.
- b. Equitable coverage legislation
- The SCTA continues to work with payer partners as well as exploring legislative approaches to equitable coverage for telehealth services.
 - Legislative language has been drafted and shared with Ryan Burnaugh, who is working with MUSC Health, Prisma Health, and SCHA government affairs partners to review and think through sponsorship and next steps.
 - Promotional Efforts

- Over 25 entities across SC have signed on to the SCTA’s Letter of Support for equitable coverage. The letter has also been shared with payer partners at SC DHHS and BCBS SC so they are aware of the effort and support.
 - Kathy Schwarting has been working closely with SCETV partners to produce a video to demonstrate the importance of telehealth services and value they bring to the state.
 - The letter of support and video will be circulated in concert with and to support next steps outlined by legislative team.
 - c. SC DHHS partners provided an update that a document is currently being circulated at the agency to support permanent expanded telehealth coverage.
 - Council members noted the importance of including Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) in these conversation, as a high proportion of Medicaid-covered people in South Carolina are enrolled in managed-care.
 - It was underlined that Medicaid’s stance on coverage for telehealth services will be crucial for rural healthcare providers, as the majority of folks in rural communities are covered by public health insurance programs such as Medicare and Medicaid.
 - d. Recently Introduced/Current Bills
 - Mental Health Telehealth Coverage ([H. 3230](#))
 - Aims to require SC DHHS to reimburse practitioners for mental health telehealth services provided to patients enrolled in Medicaid.
 - Currently in Ways and Means
 - Tele-ICU ([S. 265](#))
 - Aims to prohibit hospitals from using telemedicine to deliver intensive or critical care services. Intensive or critical care services must be provided or supervised by a board-certified critical care physician.
 - Medical Affairs Committee
 - Licensure Bills ([H. 3833](#), [H. 3840](#), [H. 3867](#))
 - 3833 – Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact
 - 3840 – Audiology and Speech-Language Interstate Compact
 - 3867 – Out of state telehealth provider licensure
 - Out of state providers can provide telehealth services in SC so long as they are registered with LLR
 - We also are monitoring a CMA Bill which has not dropped yet, but may have an impact on medical assistants’ ability to act as tele-presenters. SCTA team is monitoring its progression.
4. PCC Broadband update – Kathy Schwarting updated the council on recent broadband legislation and PCC’s ongoing broadband advocacy efforts:
 - a. Broadband Legislation:

- South Carolina: A bill was introduced in general assembly to establish the office of broadband development, which would allow the Office of Regulatory Services (ORS) to continue to lead the broadband infrastructure development in the state.
 - Federal: Congress has tasked the FCC with developing the new Emergency Broadband Benefit, a \$3.2 billion program to provide internet and device subsidies to households.
 - b. Increasing Broadband Access:
 - Proviso was presented recently to the Health Subcommittee, which would provide PCC with funding to assess why eligible citizens are not taking advantage of the LifeLine program.
 - PCC is also working with Bamberg school districts to increase connectivity for households for virtual learning, and is awaiting word on a Connected Care Grant submitted on behalf of five organizations to connect 5k low-income households.
5. 2021 Strategic Planning process – Partner Milestone Development Templates + Virtual Retreat
- a. In January partners were sent a milestone development template to begin identifying where their telehealth programs fall within the new strategic plan structure, and thinking through goals for programs in the coming years, and support needed from SCTA support partners.
 - b. Next steps for the strategic planning process include:
 - **Remainder of February** – SCTA core team will review and synthesize partner responses, working to put together a draft tactical workplan and planning for the virtual hub retreat
 - **March 10th** – Virtual retreat with clinical hub partners takes place. Partners will convene and review the draft workplan, and further outline needs from support partners.
 - **Late March/Early April** - Support partner groups will convene to review needs outlined by clinical hub partners and plan for quarterly deliverables.
 - **Late April/Early May** - Remaining strategy champions will be engaged to orient to strategy and workplan (SCHA, SCPHCA, etc).
 - c. June 2021 - Tactical workplans **finalized** with tactics/milestones established through CY2022.

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Thursday, May 20, 2021 from 1-3PM
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