

SOUTH CAROLINA  
**Telehealth**  
ALLIANCE

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2020  
Time: 1:00PM – 3:00PM  
Location: Department of Mental Health | 2414 Bull St, Columbia, SC 29201  
Present: Stewart Cooner (SCDMH), Mark Binkley (SCDMH), Katie King (MUSC), Jimmy McElligott (MUSC), Adrian Grimes (On phone - MUSC), Sonya Frankowski (SCTA), Ryan Kruis (SCTA), Don Godish (SCETV), Elizabeth Harmon (On phone - SCHA), Jeff Miles (McLeod), Ashley Springs (McLeod), Meera Narasimhan (USC), Kathy Schwarting (PCC), Mark Wess (Prisma Health), Amelia Bischoff (Prisma Health), Amanda Williams (DHHS), Sam Head (DHHS)  
Facilitated by: Jimmy McElligott  
Recorded by: Sonya Frankowski  
Next meeting: Thursday, May 21, 2020 from 1-3PM  
Department of Mental Health | 2414 Bull St, Columbia, SC 29201

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1. SCTA Procedural and Operational Items

- Annual Review of SCTA Advisory Council Operating Procedures
  - The Council discussed the 2020 SCTA Advisory Council Operating Procedures. There were no changes in operating procedures from 2019. The Council will discuss remaining membership vacancies in alignment with SCTA strategy sessions this summer and fall.
- Annual Review of SCTA Budget
  - The Council reviewed the 5-year SCTA Budget Summary with the group, including an overview of how recent proviso funds and increases in recurring funds had been distributed.
  - The group continued to advocate that future funding increases be used to shore up funding for FY23 for the hubs, when the SCTA will only be operating on recurring funds.
  - The MUSC Chair agreed to explore the suggestions and discussed this as a cause to continue advocating for an increase in recurring and additional one-time proviso funds in the future.
  - The MUSC Chair also shared that the hubs had raised concerns about the model currently being deployed for centralized support around pediatric telehealth initiatives and the funding allocated for this centralized support. The hubs reiterated this concern to the group. This model and its associated funding will be reviewed by the appropriate stakeholders in the quarters to come.

- SCTA Reporting update (CY19Q4 and Annual Report)
  - The CY19Q4 report was shared with council members prior to the meeting. Members were encouraged to review and provide any edits or notes. The CY19Q4 report will be submitted to DHHS on 3/1/20.
  - 2019 SCTA Annual Report is currently being drafted and will be available for feedback to the Content Advisory Team (CAT). The finalized report will be made available at the 2020 Telehealth Summit, in early April.

## 2. Legislative Update

- Funding and proviso:
  - The Council discussed the FY21 proviso legislation, which includes an additional \$5 million in proviso funds. The proviso language also carves out funds specifically allocated to PCC for a statewide study of eligibility and enrollment in the Lifeline program, the federal residential broadband subsidy program for low-income consumers.
- DHHS Proviso Response report:
  - The group discussed DHHS' response to the FY19 Proviso language, requiring PEBA and DHHS to report how the entities plan to expand their telehealth reimbursement policies.
  - Mental Health was identified as an important service for Medicaid membership, with specific interest in adopting additional reimbursable provider types, which aligns with the SCTA Payer Priority. Including Registered Dietitians as a reimbursable provider type was also discussed as an opportunity of shared interest.
  - The group also discussed the appetite for parity legislation and difficulty in growing telehealth programs with variance between payers' coverage policies. Concern around fraud and abuse was also discussed, as well as potential mitigation strategies such as provider education around providing and billing for telehealth services.
  - The Advisory Council agreed that the group has an opportunity to become more involved in telehealth policy advocacy discussions, and that consistent messaging is imperative for an aligned approach to any policy recommendations.

## 3. PCC Broadband Update

- Kathy Schwarting provided an update PCC's work with regards to broadband and connectivity across South Carolina.
  - The maps created last year outlining gaps in connectivity in the state will be made available at the 2020 Telehealth Summit. These maps will help to engage service providers, policy-makers, and health systems to

identify areas of focus and alignment in service development and advocacy.

- The group suggested additional data that could be overlaid to further outline high need areas, such as Medicaid beneficiary data, and hospital admissions data.
- After the 2020 Telehealth Summit, group will reconvene to align on a collective recommendation and approach to expanding connectivity across South Carolina.

#### 4. Other Updates

- 2021 Strategic Planning process - The SCTA will be looking to revamp its strategic plan structure beginning in 2021
  - The new structure will be multi-year, and aims to align services into core strategies with measurable statewide goals.
  - The structure is in preliminary stages now and more information will be presented at next Advisory Council meeting for discussion and approval.
  - Usually strategic planning sessions begin in the fall each year, but because of the stated strategy restructuring, SCTA partners can expect 2021 sessions to take place through summer 2020.
- PCC Annual Telehealth Summit – March 31-April 2
  - Kathy Schwarting provided an update on the upcoming PCC 2020 Annual Telehealth Summit, which takes place March 31 – April 2, 2020. March 31 is a pre-conference day with four concurrent sessions. Registration is now open: <https://www.palmettocareconnections.org/events/annual-telehealth-summit/2020-annual-telehealth-summit/>
- Clemson-MUSC: Healthy Me, Healthy SC Initiative
  - Dr. Katie King provided an overview of the Clemson-MUSC Healthy Me Healthy SC initiative, which is a large population health program that leverages telehealth. The telehealth-related requests for this program will go through the normal Program Request Form process managed by the SCTA.
- Telehealth Research Pilot Grants
  - The 2020 RFA was released today, and will be shared with the Council along with the minutes.

Next SCTA Advisory Council Meeting:

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