SOUTH CAROLINA
Telehealth
ALLIANCE

SC Telehealth Alliance Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes

Date:	Thursday, May 21, 2020
Time:	1:00PM – 3:00PM
Location:	Webex Meeting with Dial-in Option
Present:	Robert Bank (SCDMH), Stewart Cooner (SCDMH), Kenneth Rogers (SCDMH), Katie King (MUSC), Jimmy McElligott (MUSC), Ryan Kruis (SCTA), Sonya Frankowski (SCTA), Don Godish (SCETV), Jeff Miles (McLeod), Meera Narasimhan (USC), Kathy Schwarting (PCC), Mark Wess (Prisma Health), Amelia Bischoff (Prisma Health), Sam Head (SCDHHS), Mandy Williams (SCDHHS), Elizabeth Harmon (SCHA)
Facilitated by:	Jimmy McElligott
Recorded by:	Sonya Frankowski
Next meeting:	Thursday, August 20, 2020 from 1-3PM
	Department of Mental Health	2414 Bull St, Columbia, SC 29201

1. **Introduction and Wins**
   a. Prisma Health noted it's received positive responses from medical group physicians who have transitioned to virtual visits during the COVID-19 pandemic, and many providers have requested to maintain virtual visit options long-term.
   b. PCC noted it has received many inquiries from patients and consumers inquiring about telehealth during COVID-19, and with interested in getting involved in advocacy efforts.

2. **Exposure Contact Identification App** – Dr. Les Lenert presented on Safer-Together SC, an app currently in development at MUSC that anonymously identifies people with whom a user has been in contact with who test positive for COVID-19.
   a. Once ready for implementation, MUSC will look to SCTA partners for collaboration and partnership in dissemination. For more information, Dr. Lenert has provided a slide deck to the Advisory Council, and attendees can feel free to reach out directly to Dr. Lenert for specific questions.

3. **SCTA Procedural and Operational Items**
   a. **Contracts/Equipment Requests:**
      - The Council discussed two budget-neutral contractual updates:
        o The SCTA is working on a new contract to consolidate funding for USC partners and initiatives through the USC Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare.

- The SCTA has been in conversations with the Children's Hospital Collaborative and SCTA partner organizations around how to most effectively and efficiently support pediatric telehealth programs. Moving forward some centralized support functions will transition to SCTA core team, and centralized support funding will be re-allocated directly to the hubs for pediatric telehealth initiatives.

- The Council reviewed recent equipment requests:
  - SC Department of Mental Health – ED Telepsychiatry program
    - Orangeburg RMC
    - MUSC Marion
    - MUSC Chester
    - Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System
  - National Crime Victims Research & Treatment Center – 4 cellularly enabled iPads to expand capacity of its bilingual counselor.

4. **Discussion and Updates**
   a. **Post-COVID Telehealth Reimbursement Landscape**
      - The Council reviewed and discussed the SCTA Position Paper, drafted through the Sustainability Workgroup to advocate for the continued momentum in advancement of the telehealth reimbursement landscape. The statement encourages the permanent expansion of the reimbursement policy changes at both the state and federal levels beyond the Public Health Emergency (PHE) period.
      - The council responded positively to the message and noted the importance of ensuring alignment with policy messages from national telehealth organizations.
      - The group discussed next steps for the position paper, including how to positively leverage the message for greatest impact. The Council agreed a next step would be convene various lobbyists/legislative affairs groups to ensure a unified voice and aligned message, followed by dissemination through respective organizational advocacy channels.
   b. **PCC – Broadband/Connectivity Activity Update**
      - Kathy Schwarting provided an update on the broadband and connectivity activities that PCC has been focusing on. Through its partnerships, PCC is working on updating the broadband maps, which so far are showing progress due to the increase in conversation around connectivity.
      - PCC has also helped numerous organizations apply for FCC grants through the FCC telehealth funding including as part of the CARES act.
   c. **OIG Audit Findings**

- The Office of the Inspector General completed an audit of 100 randomly selected fee-for-service claims paid by SC Medicaid and found that 95 should not have been allowable due to improper documentation of start and stop times.
- SC DHHS is currently reviewing how they might correct some of the errors and is also working to update policy language to match practice.

d. **2021 Strategic Plan**
- Jimmy McElligott noted that the format of the 2021 Strategic Plan will change as has been discussed in previous meetings, and he will send a framework to the Council with more information.
- The initial goal of starting the 2021 Strategic Planning processes earlier this year has been delayed, and instead the process will likely take place in the same timeframe as previous years (early Fall).

5. **Other Updates**
   a. **SCTA CY20 Q1 Report** – Please review the report and provide any feedback or notes to Sonya Frankowski by Friday 5/29/20.
   b. **SC Doxy.Me Update** – Doxy.me has agreed to a preferred pricing model for SC entities affiliated with the SCTA. This preferred pricing will be contractually protected under non-disclosure terms.
      - The SCTA will continue to manage and fund (via MUSC) the SCTA.Doxy.Me instance for providers that would like to use the SCTA instance. Larger SCTA partners will have the opportunity to contract directly with Doxy.me and receive preferred SC pricing for their own instances. They will handle their own administrative tasks for their respective instances.
   c. **Legislative Funding** – The Council noted there are not currently many opportunities for increased funding given the strain COVID-19 has had on the State budget and does not plant to pursue additional funding at this time.

6. **Next SCTA Advisory Meeting:**
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   Location: Department of Mental Health | 2414 Bull St, Columbia, SC 29201