SOUTH CAROLINA
Telehealth
ALLIANCE

SC Telehealth Alliance Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes

Date:	Thursday, May 23, 2019
Time:	1:00PM – 3:00PM
Location:	Department of Mental Health | 2414 Bull St, Columbia, SC 29201
Present:	Robert Bank (SCDMH), Amelia Bischoff (Prisma Health), Stewart Cooner (SCDMH), Katie Cristaldi (MUSC), Rick Foster (SCHA), Don Godish (SCETV), Adrian Grimes (MUSC), Ryan Kruis (SCTA), Jimmy McElligott (MUSC), Jeff Miles (McLeod), Meera Narasimhan (USC), Kathy Schwarting (PCC), Ashley Springs (McLeod), Allan Stalvey (SCHA), Mark Wess (Prisma Health)
Facilitated by:	Jimmy McElligott
Recorded by:	Ryan Kruis
Next meeting:	Thursday, August 22, 2019 from 1-3PM
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1. **Welcome and Wins**
   - Amelia Bischoff has been promoted to the role of Director of Digital Health for Prisma Health and will be overseeing telehealth operations at both Prisma Upstate and Prisma Midlands. Additionally, a steering committee has been put in place at Prisma to help drive the telehealth strategy across the Prisma Health enterprise.
   - The SCTA was awarded the American Telemedicine Association President's Award for Transformation of Healthcare Delivery in May. Representatives from key SCTA partner organizations were in attendance to accept the award.
   - MUSC Health recently announced a partnership with Hampton Regional Medical Center: https://web.musc.edu/about/leadership/institutional-offices/communications/pamr/news-releases/2019/musc-health-signs-agreement-with-hampton-regional-medical-center
   - Allan Stalvey will be joining the SCTA Advisory Council to represent the SCHA.
   - The budget passed by the state legislature included a 2.225M increase in recurring funds for the SCTA (bringing the total recurring dollars to 13.225M) and an additional 5M in one-time proviso funding. The governor is expected to sign off on the budget.

2. **SCTA Procedural and Operational Items**
    a. **Contracts/Equipment Requests:**
        - No new contracts were discussed.
        - The Council reviewed recent equipment requests:

Requestor	Notes
Kershaw Health	The SCTA approved the purchase of 4 carts for Kerhsaw Health to provide school-based telehealth in Kershaw County.
Community Medical Center of Kershaw	The SCTA approved the purchase of 2 carts for school-based telehealth provided by the Community medical Center of Kershaw. Additionally, they are working with a clinic in Bethune to coordinate use of a cart at that clinic.

        o The Council encouraged the development of educational resources outlining SCTA implementation use cases and best practices.

3. **Discussion and Updates – 2019 Strategic Plan**
   The Council was provided a draft CY19 Quarter 1 report outlining progress on the 2019 Strategic Plan. Updates across the various strategies were discussed, and full details of this progress can be found in the report.

    a. **IT Workgroup**
        - Jimmy McElligott provided an update on the IT Workgroup's efforts to understand the paths different telehealth vendors are taking toward interoperability roadmaps. The IT Workgroup is also working to more clearly delineate telehealth-related IT support among SCTA outpatient sites.
    b. **Education**
        - Kathy Schwarting noted that the PCC Telehealth Summit was a success and solicited feedback on the event.
            o The group discussed the difficult balance to strike among vendor engagement, networking, and educational content.
        - PCC, SCTA, AHEC, and Anderson University are co-hosting a telehealth regional symposium in Greenville on June 19: https://www.palmettocareconnections.org/regional-meeting/
    c. **Service Development**
        - SCDMH, Prisma Health, McLeod Health, and MUSC Health all provided brief updates on telehealth programs taking place at their hubs. (See report for further details)
    d. **Stakeholder Meeting**
        - PCC and SCTA will again be hosting a stakeholder meeting later this summer. Details are pending but the Council is encouraged to provide feedback on to how to make these sessions valuable.

e. Outcomes Report

- Meera Narasimhan provided an update on the work she and her team have been doing to analyze the outcomes of DTC activities taking place at Prisma Health and McLeod Health and the telehealth activity taking place at SCDMH. (See report for further details)
- Katie Cristaldi provided a brief update on MUSC's Center of Excellence activity, noting two population health articles on telestroke and school-based telehealth that are currently in press and under review and that highlight the potential benefits these programs have on a population health level.
- Ryan Kruis noted that the SCTA Telehealth Pilot grants are now being administered by MUSC's SC Translational Research Center, and the RFA has been reworked to be more research-oriented. Full applications are due this month and awards will be announced later this summer.

f. Content Advisory Team

- Don Godish provided a brief update on the activities of the Content Advisory Team, noting that SCETV has met with each of the hubs to determine how the group can best meet the hub marketing needs.
- One of the My Telehealth stories produced by SCETV has been nominated for a SE Emmy Award.

g. Payer Priorities

- Adrian Grimes updated the group on the newly released 2019 Payer Priorities (available online and in the quarterly report). These directly reference the new CMS codes approved for different telehealth modalities, calling Medicaid and private payers to consider reimbursement for these as well.
  - o Kathy Schwarting noted that RHC and FQHCs not being able to be reimbursed as distance providers under Medicare remains a challenge, and this should be included in payer coverage discussions on the federal level when possible.
- Included in the recently passed budget was language mandating DHHS and PEBA to review the additional telehealth coverage outlined by CMS. See the following proviso language:
  - o *The Department of Health and Human Services and the Public Employee Benefit Authority shall each review federal additions to telehealth coverage established under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, and other recent federal legislation and/or regulation. No later than October 1, 2019, both of these agencies shall submit a report to the Governor, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee on how they*

intend to broaden their service-based coverage to align with these federal changes and to improve the sustainability of telehealth services.

- **Parity Legislation:** Given this activity and many "asks," the group discussed the possibility of reinitiating conversations around some version of parity legislation. Understanding the process for the mandated DHHS and PEBA report may be the first step toward determining a path forward.
  - o Jimmy McElligott agreed to do some investigating and bring information back to the group either on an interim call our at the August 22 meeting.

4. **Next SCTA Advisory Meeting:**
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