

SOUTH CAROLINA  
**Telehealth**  
ALLIANCE

**SCTA Advisory Council Meeting**

Thursday, August 20, 2020, 1-3PM

Webex: <https://musc.webex.com/meet/frankoso>

Call-in Option: 415-655-0002 | Access code: 641 069 199

**Agenda**

Date: Thursday, August 20, 2020  
Time: 1:00PM – 3:00PM  
Location: Webex Meeting  
Present: Jimmy McElligott (MUSC/SCTA), Ryan Krus (MUSC/SCTA), Sonya Frankowski (SCTA), Katie King (MUSC/SCTA), Ragan Richardson (SCTA), Don Godish (SCETV), Stewart Cooner (SCDMH), Sam Head (SC DHHS), Mandy Williams (SC DHHS), Sen. Thomas Alexander (General Assembly), 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, November 19, 2020 from 1-3PM

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**1. SCTA Procedural Items**

- a. Approved Equipment Requests -
  - Georgetown County Board of Disability and Special Needs - Request was approved for equipment for a new telehealth program to support their residential population.

**2. Discussion and Updates**

- a. **Parity Language Review and Discussion**
  - The Council reviewed and discussed telehealth parity language drafted by the SCTA Sustainability Workgroup, which was modeled on draft language from Foley and Lardner, LLC. The draft language includes parity for both service coverage and payment, removing originating site and geographic restrictions, and removing provider-type restrictions so that those that can bill in-person will also be able to bill for telehealth.
  - SC DHHS shared that they are currently evaluating the current telehealth landscape as an opportunity to learn and formulate future plans for SC Medicaid. Data and perspectives from SC providers will be helpful in development of future plans, and the Council discussed opportunities to contribute data through the SCTA to assist SC DHHS during its exploration.
  - SCTA leadership is also exploring additional action items to advance telehealth reimbursement priorities outside of parity legislation, and intends to engage the appropriate parties and payers move these priorities forward.
- b. **Broadband Advocacy Update**

- Kathy Schwarting provided an update on PCC's activities around broadband and connectivity, including assisting the Department of Education and service providers in implementing short-term internet accessibility solutions for SC children.
- PCC has also continued to work on a gap analysis study in broadband subsidy utilization, which aims to identify why many eligible citizens have not applied for the program.
- Senator Alexandar shared that an additional \$50-55 million in state funds will be announced for additional infrastructure grants, and applauded the great cooperation in broadband advocacy and telehealth services across South Carolina.

**c. School-Based Telehealth**

- Dr. Katie King provided an update on school-based telehealth as schools begin to reopen amid the COVID-19 pandemic, emphasizing that school-based telehealth programs will continue to support families whether they are in-school or distance-learning.
- Dr. King also shared that preliminary conversations have taken place around an SCTA school-based telehealth model, in which health systems, schools, FQHCs, and local providers would collaborate to provide care to children. A smaller group of school-based telehealth champions will meet to further discuss and provide an update at the next Council meeting.

**d. 2021 Strategy Revamp**

- Dr. Jimmy McElligott introduced a new SCTA strategy format for calendar year 2021. While the SCTA Mission and Vision remain unchanged, the new format focuses on six telehealth service domains with supporting tactics under each in areas of telehealth education, sustainability, technology and awareness.
- SCTA partners were asked to review and digest the information from their respective organizational viewpoints and further discussion will take place on advancing the new strategy format in the coming months.

**3. Other updates**

- a. **SCTA CY20 Q2 Report** – The SCTA CY20Q2 report includes data and perspectives from SCTA health system partners, FQHCs, and rural providers on their use of telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic. SCTA Partners are encouraged to review and provide any comments or feedback to Sonya Frankowski, SCTA Coordinator by Thursday, August 27.
- b. **SCTA.Doxy.Me brief update** – The SCTA.doxy.me instance continues as a free statewide resource, and has received nearly 1,000 user account requests and completed over 40,000 telehealth sessions since its launch in April 2020.
- c. **Share Your Story Campaign** – The SCTA will be launching a 'Share Your Story/Share Your Support' campaign on its website, providing an avenue for patients and providers to demonstrate their support for continued telehealth services and coverage through sharing a story and/or signing on to a support statement. The effort is currently in development, and will be coordinated to complement the efforts of PCC and SCETV in telehealth advocacy and awareness.