

Meeting Summary & Action Items

Maine Telehealth and Tele-Monitoring Quarterly Advisory Group Meeting

Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 10:30AM-12:00PM

Attendees: Mel Lovering, Andrea Gimple-Blanchard, Lisa Letourneau, Sarah Squirrel, Sue Woods, Alecia Swihart, Kevin McGinnis, Kelly Marshall, Mike Ross, Jennifer Brewer, Jasmine Bishop, Sam Hurley, Danielle Louder, Caren Bishop, Reid Plimpton, Andrew Solomon

Issue	Summary/Decisions	Action Items and/or Resources	Lead
Welcome & Agenda Scan	Danielle opened meeting and did agenda scan with the group to ensure all key items were covered.	No additional agenda items requested/added	Danielle All
Telehealth Policy Updates	<p>Maine – Search 130th Legislature by Bill Number (LR 2331, LR 2317) (LR 2398, L2386, LR 2418, LR 2429, LR 2352)</p> <p>Maine Regulatory Updates - Boards of Allopathic Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine and Nursing to publish joint rule implementing telehealth law passed last session - <i>Joint rule to the telehealth updates - early 2022 if not sooner</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Second session of the 130th Legislature - kicking off January 5th - Reid shared document with links to other bills - bills that have passed the screening action session of Maine Legislature - pulled out LRs that are referring to telehealth in the title or in the topic area. Titles, sponsors, voted tally of the chambers but no substance --> substance coming.</i> • <i>Sam - just know that there is an appeals process so all of those that were not approved at the first review meeting they have a chance to appeal. They would have had to file by Nov 1st - so this list may not be complete.</i> • <i>There are quite a few proposals at the federal level - high double digits. Last month there was a federal testimony hearing on patient experiences and patient satisfaction - link to YouTube in agenda.</i> • Sue Woods – we are lucky to have legislators that support TH, however it's clear we must be careful around language <p>2022 Proposed Physician Fee Schedule – Final Rule published on 11/19/2021 - CMS Proposes to Extend Telehealth Flexibilities Through 2023</p>	<p>See document:</p>  <p>ME-BOUM-Rulemaking Fact Sheet Final 10</p> <p>Reid will send this out to the group --> it is also on the workgroup webpage</p> <p>Reid will look for this list and send it out if possible.</p> <p>See Resources: Pending Federal Legislation in 117th Congress; Federal Testimony regarding Telehealth, Mid October</p> <p>See Full Final FY2022 PFS published on 11/19/2021 See CCHP 2022 PFS Fact Sheet</p>	<p>FYI</p> <p>Reid</p> <p>Reid</p> <p>FYI</p> <p>FYI</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reid - In a final period of public inspection before it is released. Some changes to telehealth at the Medicare level. But it will officially be posted in 14 days. • Danielle - didn't make any changes to any of the proposed changes to telehealth stuff. Anybody who submitted codes to add to eligible services - they did not accept any of them. • Jasmine - how is it looking for audio only? Over after PHE ends? ATA sent a letter to Biden to get those flexibilities extended beyond PHE. Any clarity or insight? • Mel - I think they extended audio for BH only but not primary care or specialty use. They did post the physician fee schedule but only updates were for BH audio only but need an in person visit every 6 months. • Danielle – Stakeholders are pushing to remove the 6-month requirement. HHS OIG report that was put out recently. There has been a lot of focus concern about fraud and continuity of care but they found Medicare telehealth utilizers high percentage were established providers. Have found very little fraud was actually telehealth. No indication of widespread fraud for telehealth. • Federal level - after PHE audio only will be allowed for BH. • Danielle - Jan 13th, 2022 is the new extension for the PHE. • Mel - therapeutic management codes. What will these look like after PHE? RPM after PHE - established patients only, no new patients for RPM. Does that new patient visit have to be in person or can it be virtual? • Dr. Ross - audio only outside of BH - we are working internally on how to enhance telehealth. But we are in Northern Maine, poor broadband. Probably 2-3 yrs away from broadband expansion. What are people's thoughts? Cardiac failure, stroke follow-up, diabetic control etc. • Danielle - it is seen by many as a health equity issue. Maine and other states are leading with respect to changing their policy for audio only telehealth but we'll see how quickly Medicare follows states. Adding audio only to telehealth definition would require an act of Congress but they are hearing from many stakeholders that disallowing it would create further gaps. 	<p>See CCHP newsletter: QFRs Provide Insight on OIG Telehealth Perspective & Further Clarify Telefraud is Not Telehealth Fraud</p> <p>NETRC to follow up with Mei Kwong at CCHP to see if she has more info on RTM codes</p>	<p>FYI</p> <p>NETRC</p>
--	---	--	-------------------------

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LML - ongoing efforts to identify potential use of federal funds that are coming to the state to fund some of those efforts • Caren shared updates on Maine Rural Health Collaborative, specific to eConsults • Danielle - need to make sure everyone knows policy and we communicate it out to the masses to promote utilization. • Dr. Ross - we've been aggressively pursuing eConsults over the last 6 months. Would love to share challenges triumphs. 7 specialties. Challenge is workflow and getting a new part of workflow incorporated in EMR. We can talk about our experiences - lessons learned. Let us know how we can get involved. <p>Behavioral Health Planning: Rapid Access Model, School-Based, etc. (Chris/Reid)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reid - Original BH workgroup completed a high level needs assessment. Still exploring the rapid access model which was identified a gap area. With some transition in the Workgroup, we've talked about reassessing the needs across the state. Perhaps school based as a focus given identified needs, focus of state and federal resources, etc. Reid shared the eConnectivity fund from FCC - a number of schools in Maine received funding for devices for students. Maine included in second round of awards. They are interested in increasing awareness and understanding of telehealth landscape in the state. 	<p>Caren to reach out to Dr. Ross to see how they can collaborate.</p>	<p>Caren</p>
<p>Resources and Opportunities</p>	<p>Project ECHO – SME and Spoke Site Opportunities (CARE2 and Others)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew gave overview of TTELP program and grant. Mel helping with first ECHO program on long-term care with long COVID. Developing new ECHO programs over 5 years. UNE. UNH, UVM, Mainehealth etc. <p>Broadband and Digital Equity – Maine Broadband Summit 11/18-19, 2021 – see Recordings Here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danielle – Maine Connectivity Authority. Department of Treasury has funding available for all states – Maine eligible for \$128M under this funding opportunity. Working on application. Andrew Butcher Governor's intended appointee as President of Maine Connectivity Authority. Has to be approved by legislature during next session in January, 2022. 	<p>Reach out to Andrew if you're interested in SME or spoke site. asolomon@mcd.org</p> <p>New Resources Since November Mtg: Northwest Regional TRC CAH Telehealth Guide</p> <p>State Medicaid & CHIP Telehealth Toolkit Policy Considerations for States Expanding Use of Telehealth</p> <p>Notes from November 8 MedPAC Public Meeting on Telehealth Utilization among Medicare participants</p>	<p>All FYI</p>

- *Jasmine- underscored that ConnectMaine is excited about Andrew Butcher as President.*

Funding Opportunities: HRSA, USDA, etc.

- *Sam - there has been a conversation with Maine EMS to find grant funding to help pay for broadband hotspots in every ambulance to conduct telemed visits from any ambulance. Will cost \$600k. Does anyone have any info? Benefits are broadband in ambulance but also has capacity to help better coordinate EMS response and services. Access to broadband and tracking.*
- *Dr. Ross - we might be interested from Northern Light Health. Sam - you can reach out to me and I can connect you to Cardio doc and president and we can see what we can do to support.*
- *Kevin - check through Firstnet, AT&T'. High powered user equipment.*
 - *Sam - this is where we got a quote from. 50% off of equipment.*

Telehealth Locator – Beta Testers Needed!

- *Reid shared link and asked for beta testers throughout the rest of the calendar year.*

National Licensure Compact Tools: [CSG-Interstate Licensure Compact Guide 2021](#); [CSG Licensure Compact-Resource-Guide-2021](#)

[NETRC's Telehealth Classroom](#) – houses multiple trainings and toolkits including SUPPORT for ME TeleSUD, eConsults, Telehealth and Primary Care, Community Health Workers and Telehealth, and will also house Telehealth Quality resources as they are developed; able to host partner/stakeholders telehealth training resources if helpful.

Open Funding Opportunities:

[HRSA Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Implementation](#)
(1/13/2022)

[HRSA Rural Health Network Development Planning](#) (1/28/2021)

DRAFT from New Workforce Moels
Workgroup: [A Model for Community
Paramedicine in Maine](#)

	USDA Rural eConnectivity Program (2/22/2022)		
Next Steps and Adjourn	<p>Danielle reviewed next steps/assignments (see Action Items) and encouraged all to reach out with questions and/or resources to assist with group activities to further promote telehealth.</p> <p>Reminded group of Advisory Group webpage which houses meeting info and relevant resources.</p>	Send out meeting summary and resources discussed.	Danielle
<p>Next Meeting: Thursday, February 3rd 10:30A-12P - likely remote only Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87371125847</p>			