Meeting Summary & Action Items

Maine Telehealth and Tele-Monitoring Quarterly Advisory Group Meeting

Date: Thursday, May 26, 2022 10:30AM-12:00PM

Attendees: Michelle Beane, Tom Leet, Lisa Letourneau, Rachel Alfiero, Lisa Harvey-McPherson, Sue Woods, Amy Heino, Andrea Gimpel Blanchard, Carol Carew, Crystal Tufts, Chris Gilding, Alecia Swihart, Yvonne Jonk, Lizzy Mulcahy, Jen Brewer, Kelly Marshall 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. Introductions were made.	No additional agenda items requested/added	Danielle All
TH/TM Priority Areas	**Maine TH/TM Priority Areas: Discussion and Next Steps** **Promote Payment Change - TH Policy (Reid & Lisa H-M) (10 minutes)** • Updates – See slide deck • PHE currently expires 7/16/2022; to extend to October 2022 • Lisa H-MP - Shared slides on congress omnibus spending package; funds gov't through Sept. 2022 - Telehealth flexibilities extended 151 days after the PHE ends - see slide for details - Discussion around whether audio only has been extended only for BH services and not medical; believe this is the case but will verify - Reid - Recently passed legislation in ME 130th- LD 1758 BH LD 1920 - both linked in slides Lisa H-MP - CMS looking to update blueprint on rural health and improving access to telehealth - strong focus on telehealth during recent meeting Tom - policies at MaineCare get updated every 2 years or so; telehealth and reimbursement is in the hopper for next updates. Always looking to clean up outdated policies. If you ever encounter outdated policies, feel free to reach out.	Resources: CCHP 50 State – Spring 2022 and TH Policy Impacts of 2022 Appropriations Act MLN Matters: Mental Health Services Via Telecommunications for FQHCs and RHCs MLN Matters: Critical Access Hospital Fact Sheet 2022 Private Payer Mental Health Covered Providers - spreadsheet compiled for NETRC May 2022 RFI Summary Released - White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Reid and Lisa will confirm audio-only coverage post PHE and report back NETRC to facilitate collection of feedback on potential Telehealth Rule changes through TH/TM working groups and share with Tom	FYI Reid NETRC

Behavioral Health (20 minutes) **Adolescent ED survey – summary of results; discuss next steps (Reid & Lisa L)** Reid – shared survey and summary of results including potential strategies to address the high number of adolescents presenting in the ED with mental health conditions. See slide for results on potential short term and long-term strategies. Survey was collaborative effort of BH and Community Paramedicine workgroups. - Confirmed moving forward: development of communication materials to assist stakeholders in knowing where resources are, and that telehealth is an option. NETRC tackling this and will help coordinate with School-based TBH pilot as appropriate. LML - In addition to the survey results, did outreach to the larger EDs in the state. Asked them how telehealth could play a role in reducing ED visits for youth with MH diagnoses. A majority of youth coming in have highly complex issues vs. what we initially had anticipated (80/20 mix of less complex vs. more complex). There are a lot of other state efforts to try and better understand kids with more severe diagnoses and prolonged stays. In terms of what could be done, a lot of suggestions line up with survey results. The following were identified as priorities: 1. Increase workforce capacity - leverage telehealth earlier. Maybe look out of state for providers. 2. Communicate crisis and mobile crisis and promote availability - through schools, PCPs. 3. Could there be more offering of more intense treatment options - telehealth through IOP? Availability of higher level BH services? Danielle mentioned current ECHO focused on Peds and Behavioral Health; open to Pediatricians and PCPs. See registration info to the right Carol - we provide BH services at local schools in Bucksport - huge increase in substance use. Any extra resources, counseling services, they	Resource: **Maine Pediatric Behavioral Health ECHO for Pediatricians and Primary Care Providers**; Sign-up	FYI FYI

	are interested. They are not having a problem recruiting but as soon as they hire someone, they lose someone. Job market is competitive. Kelly - they are experiencing the same at Sweetser Lizzy - Are any teams using apps for this? Could help address workforce shortage. *Caren - Gus Crothers from GROUPS could speak to this.* Sue provided options for finding vetted mobile apps for mental health - New Zealand has curated library https://www.healthnavigator.org.nz/apps/a/app-library/; UK's library has been taken down. There is no US library we're aware of, but ORCHA Health is working on it. https://us.orchahealth.com/	Caren will reach out to Gus as a follow up.	Caren
TH/TM Priority Areas	**School-based Telebehavioral Health Pilot update (Lisa L)** LML - Project Sarah Squirrel started, looking at school health. She identified a model out of MA - Heywood Healthcare - utilized CDC funds to offer BH services in schools in conjunction with a community health worker. Moving this pilot forward in the next month or so. More details to come. Carol - we are hearing from social workers they are doing a lot of resource connecting - CHWs taking this on would be very helpful **Support Primary Care (10 minutes) (Andrew, Caren, Danielle)** **Maine eConsult network implementation; timeline/next steps for pilots** Andrew shared background on DHHS Maine eConsult Network: 1-year pilot program to implement and expand the Maine eConsult Network (MEeCN) which was initialized through a HRSA planning grant that was awarded to MCD and NETRC in 2020. Will be conducting outreach to recruit specialists and disseminate application for PCPs. Informational webinars upcoming. Discussing collaborations with health systems. **New Workforce Development Models (10 minutes)** **Community Paramedicine – updates on local efforts, policy, etc. (Caren, Kevin)** Kevin - EMS trying to adopt new technologies. Telehealth initiatives in EMS have stalled. ET3 services need to revisisted.	Reminder: eConsult toolkit can be found on Telehealth Classroom	FYI FYI

	Danielle - adequate connectivity must be in place first – Sam at Maine EMS and others working on this. Kevin - FirstNet has new capability; now has a high-power range - 30 miles vs. 5-10 previously.
	
	Virtual Dental Home – Children's Oral Health Network funding from HRSA
	Danielle - earmarks opened last Summer/Fall. Maine Children's Oral Health Network received funds for estimated July 1 project start. Assess, train and implement a specific tele-dentistry platform. Build virtual dental homes in PCP settings. Focus on Midcoast area in particular with opportunities for replication state-wide.
	
	Addtl. Update: Maine Family Planning got a significant amount of funding Title X to expand telehealth for reproductive health
	
	Connectivity/Broadband Expansion (10 minutes) (Danielle & Reid)
	Maine Connectivity Authority and ConnectMaine updates
	  - 2022 Broadband Awards – Eight awards across Maine communities totaling over $15M; awarded through ConnectMaine annual process with additional funds from MCA.
	  - NTIA request for proposals is now open – this is the next large chunk of funds MCA will be submitting for, specifically the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program
	  - Maine Connectivity Authority has started to hire staff with two openings still posted. See website: www.maineconnectivity.org
	  - Other MCA initiatives in progress:
	    ○ Workplan submitted to federal Capital Projects Fund for $128 million in Maine;
	    ○ Middle Mile Survey now live - strong part of strategy is to create competition and remove barriers
	    ○ MCA is launching the Jumpstart Connectivity Initiative (Jumpstart) to provide accelerated low-cost internet access to the least served areas of the state by trialing the deployment of wireless technology deployments; to provide funding for between 1 and 4 pilot projects with a total budget of up to $2M. All funded projects will provide internet service to households using wireless technology for middle and/or last mile access.
		Anyone interested in connecting with MCA to discuss telehealth related needs/feedback - let Danielle know and she will get you connected.	FYI
			
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	Lisa H-MP - shared link to Northern Light [Broadband Case Statements](#); designed to support applicants and communities looking to secure funds for broadband projects. Case Statements include data by county that they can copy and paste into their applications.		
Resources and Opportunities	**NETRC Annual Conference September 28-29** in Southbridge, MA - [Call for abstracts](#) open until June 24 **Telehealth Quality Resources:** - Andrew: Just released a new module: Achieving Quality in Telehealth. Currently 90 minutes long; working to divide into 2 different courses. Applying for CME credit as well. - MaineHealth/NETRC physical exam video will be released soon; will be integrating into the TH Quality course. Telehealth locator - telehealth mapping tool looking at telehealth and sites that are doing it along with other data points. Currently collecting data from the health sites. Telehealthlocator.org in beta testing phase. HRSA TTELP has a new ECHO series on SUD starting on June 7th. There are currently over 100 sites registered across ME, NH and VT; will likely be offering another one given the high level of need/interest **Funding and Other Opportunities** Emergency Broadband Benefit Program - slide - in early may another 20 ISPs added to the participant list USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine grants – anticipated to open Fall 2022 2 HRSA Rural Northern Border Region grants now open: - [Healthcare Support Program](#) grant due July 1. MCD and regional partners looking at this. - [Health Workforce Centers](#) – due July 11	Those interested in presenting at NETRC 2022 conference should [submit abstracts](#) by June 24 Check out AQT course on [TH Classroom](#)	All FYI
Next Steps and Adjourn	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.	Send out meeting summary and resources discussed; Include items of interest on August agenda	Danielle

	Items of interest identified for August meeting:
	
	    ○ State telehealth flexibilities - how they will wind down after PHE expires October 2022
	    ○ Notion of community health workers - it feels that there is enough work happening there that looking at how telehealth can be used to support CHWs ; Reid shared recent recording from MeCDC training on CHWs, NETRC TH Classroom also has a CHW training; Carol - state's new supplemental payment program for PCPs has a CHW requirement; **Subject matter expert should come to speak about CHWs in Maine**
	    ○ With respect to discussion around Behavioral Health digital therapeutics – would like to convene a group over the next few weeks that is interested in talking about this. Sue, Lisa, Gus, others. Caren and Reid to coordinate.
	
	Reminded group of Advisory Group webpage which houses meeting info and relevant resources.
		See recording of recent MeCDC presentation on CHWs;
		NETRC TH Classroom also has a training for CHWs
		
		All interested in participating in the working group - fill out calendar poll to identify meeting date/time:
		https://zcal.co/m/2nJK6_WL
			FYI
			
			All

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 4th 10:30A-12P - likely remote only **Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87371125847**			