

## Meeting Summary & Action Items

### Maine Telehealth and Tele-Monitoring Quarterly Advisory Group Meeting

Date: Thursday, August 4, 2022 10:30AM-12:00PM

**Attendees:** Amy Heino, Mel Lovering, Kevin McGinnis, Sue Woods, Chris Gilding, Lisa Letourneau, Lizzy Mulcahy, Yvonne Jonk, Alecia Swihart, Danielle Louder, Caren Bishop, Reid Plimpton, Andrew Solomon  
 Guests: John Holland, Mary Caron, Aaron Burke, Sheila Nelson

Issue	Summary/Decisions	Action Items and/or Resources	Lead
<b>Welcome &amp; Agenda Scan</b>	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
<b>TH/TM Priority Areas</b>	<p><b>Maine TH/TM Priority Areas: Discussion and Next Steps</b></p> <p><b>Promote Payment Change - TH Policy (Reid) (10 minutes)</b></p> <p>Anticipated end of PHE and 2023 Physician Fee Schedule Implications                      3 tiers of expanded coverage for another year</p> <p><i>PHE extended until mid-October and may be extended again - presentation goes over potential implications</i></p> <p><i>ASPR link - PHE determination goes until October 15th, if it ends there, we have 151 days of grace period of flexibilities</i>  <a href="https://aspr.hhs.gov/legal/PHE/Pages/covid19-15jul2022.aspx">https://aspr.hhs.gov/legal/PHE/Pages/covid19-15jul2022.aspx</a>;</p> <p><a href="#">CCHP Proposed CY 2023 Physician Fee Schedule Factsheet</a> - Digs out telehealth specific information; Changes to audio only coverage, chronic care management codes and more.  <b>Proposed PFS currently open for comment through September 6th 5pm ET</b></p> <p><i>Reid shared several links/resources on appropriations language</i>                      - <a href="https://www.foley.com/en/insights/publications/2022/07/medicare-telehealth-services-2023-cms-changes">https://www.foley.com/en/insights/publications/2022/07/medicare-telehealth-services-2023-cms-changes</a>;                      - <a href="https://connectwithcare.org/senate-includes-numerous-telehealth-provisions-in-the-fy-2023-senate-appropriations-committee-report/">https://connectwithcare.org/senate-includes-numerous-telehealth-provisions-in-the-fy-2023-senate-appropriations-committee-report/</a></p>	<p><i>Reid will develop slides and walk through expanded coverage in a bullet point list</i></p> <p>Resources:                      - <a href="#">What Might Happen in Telehealth Policy After the PHE</a> – Mei Kwong CCHP: <a href="#">full video</a> or <a href="#">PowerPoint</a></p> <p>Updated Payer Resource Grid:  <a href="https://netrc.org/work-group/resources/Telehealth%20Policy%20and%20Reimbursement/07-2022-Telehealth%20Payer%20Resources-NETRC.pdf">https://netrc.org/work-group/resources/Telehealth%20Policy%20and%20Reimbursement/07-2022-Telehealth%20Payer%20Resources-NETRC.pdf</a></p>	Reid  FYI

	<p>- <a href="https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/07/29/2022-14562/medicare-and-medicaid-programs-cy-2023-payment-policies-under-the-physician-fee-schedule-and-other">https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/07/29/2022-14562/medicare-and-medicaid-programs-cy-2023-payment-policies-under-the-physician-fee-schedule-and-other</a></p> <p><a href="#">Legislative Digest of Bills and Summaries of Enacted Laws</a> for the Second Regular Session of the 130<sup>th</sup> Legislature is now available. Summaries for the HCIFS Committee <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Discussion</b>  Lisa L - Ryan Haight adjustments lie with the DEA - is there work going on with prescribing permissions?</p> <p>Reid - New York group has been discussing this - whether the issue lies with regional folks or federal - debate about whether tele prescribing capabilities can be covered by the opioid PHE so flexibilities may be continued</p> <p>Sue - might be of value to ask King's office what the status is - shared a press release and blog post in the chat:  - <a href="#">Portman, Whitehouse Urge DEA and HHS to Extend Americans' Access to Telehealth Once the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency is Terminated</a>;  - <a href="#">White House issues recommendations on telehealth and SUD services - Part II</a></p> <p>Mel – is there a debate around originating site restrictions to not have a telehealth visit in the home?  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Danielle- congress looking at multiple bills that would permanently remove geographic restrictions and urban/rural access to telehealth</li> <li>- Reid - there was a rural designation change in 2021 - Feds changed the populous and did add some rurality to the Androscoggin area, reshuffling of the HPSA areas</li> </ul> </p> <p>Andrew – shared new HHS <a href="#">guidance document on non-discrimination in telehealth</a></p> <p><b>Behavioral Health (15 minutes)</b>  o Digital Therapeutics – Update and Next Steps (BH Workgroup)  Met 2x since last meeting - divide and conquer different topics</p>	<p>Reid will research this and circle back</p> <p>NETRC team to reach out to Senator King's office and share any insights back with Advisory</p> <p>Resources:  <a href="#">Future of Medicare: Innovating to advance health equity, expand access and improve outcomes</a> - Forum 2022, Meena Seshamani, MD, PhD, Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Medicare, Centers for Medicare &amp; Medicaid Services</p> <p><a href="https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/07/07/2022-14501/lists-of-designated-primary-medical-care-mental-health-and-dental-health-professional-shortage-areas">https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/07/07/2022-14501/lists-of-designated-primary-medical-care-mental-health-and-dental-health-professional-shortage-areas</a></p> <p>Workgroup to share results of activities with Advisory at November mtg.</p>	<p>FYI</p> <p>Reid</p> <p>NETRC</p> <p>FYI</p> <p>BH Workgroup</p>
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	<p>Reid and Caren doing a landscape of DTx around the country, vendors etc. Sue, Lisa, Yvonne, Rick - drafting up questions to get more qualitative information from boots on the ground providers - get a report out</p> <p>Established Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.How to keep youth out of the ED</li> <li>2.Can we use apps / digital designs to give the kids something through Primary care or direct access - while addressing workforce shortage?</li> <li>3.Speak with ED workforce to see what conditions are being presented</li> <li>4.Look at existing data to learn more about conditions – MIYHS, crisis data etc.</li> <li>5.Do a landscape scan to see what other states, organizations are doing in this space. Vendor landscape.</li> </ol> <p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p>Lizzy - looking at referral cues, triage tool, might be a place to look when they leave that primary care realm</p> <p>Sue - trying to find where the greatest pain points are, what are the digital tools that people can self-use, self-subscribe. Rick has connected us with some integrated primary care providers to have a few conversations. NL Health, Mercy.</p> <p><b>School-based Telebehavioral Health Pilot update (Lisa L)</b></p> <p>Plan by the state to try and address BH issues in youth, build capacity within schools. Identified 3 BH orgs to pilot this in conjunction with a CHW who works in the school but is hired by the BH organization. Adapted from Heywood Health in western MA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sheila - we at Maine CDC have funding from US CDC to do statewide work to do suicide prevention - use telehealth to reduce barriers to BH services. Can't use funds for direct services but can identify best practices and share with providers. We can take a hard look at what makes this possible, what is effective, challenges, successes. Eval process that leads to identifying best practices and how other schools, agencies can replicate this model.</li> <li>- Danielle - we are developing a toolkit on School Based TBH available to anybody and everybody. Maine CDC best practices can be integrated.</li> </ul>	<p>If anyone has existing information on the pain points that are happening or individuals we can talk to, let us know.</p> <p>Keep Advisory apprised of pilot locations, activities, relevant resources and progress as things move forward; solicit Advisory input as necessary</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Lisa L</p>
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	<p>Mel – do we know what schools are selected, with respect to geography?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lisa L - the 3 BH orgs have identified schools (rural) one is northern Penobscot, central Maine, northern Maine. Schools that don't already have BH services.</li> </ul> <p>Yvonne - Very challenging to work through all payer claims database to identify school-based telehealth b/c of reimbursement. Hard to identify if Place of Service was school. Is there a way to accurately track billing/claims from a researcher POV? Sometimes contracts are in place where there is no billing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sheila - there is going to be a concerted effort to make sure services have a telehealth modifier on them. Telehealth services will be fee for service reimbursement model. But the CHW would not be billed or reimbursed on this project.</li> <li>- Lizzy - Consider care coordination with the Pediatrician, ensure PCP has awareness; Caren/Danielle confirmed that this is covered in the toolkit as part of the model</li> </ul> <p><b>Support Primary Care (10 minutes) (Andrew, Caren, Danielle)</b></p> <p>o Maine eConsult network updates: See <a href="#">MEeCN project website</a> for Information Sessions (Aug. 2, 3 and 4) and how to apply; Application open to enroll PCP providers to join the MEeCN through DHHS funding through August 12.</p> <p>The network is being implemented as a follow up to a rural health planning grant, to establish a state-wide asynchronous peer to peer consult model. Yvonne and Maine Rural Health Research Center are helping with the evaluation. Partnering with Dr. Daren Anderson and ConferMED for infrastructure/operational support.</p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p>Danielle - MaineHealth and Northern Light Health have established eConsult programs with great results - have difficulty providing outside of their systems at this time. Leveraging their work/lessons learned to establish the statewide network and share provider resources, etc. as possible</p> <p>Yvonne - Barriers with EMR compatibility?</p>	<p>Keep Advisory apprised of pilot site locations, activities and progress moving forward; solicit Advisory input as necessary</p>	<p>Andrew/ Caren</p>
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Danielle/Caren- ConferMED removes the barrier to PCP sites as it embeds eConsult referral form into any PCP EMR. Reimbursement will be looked at. Will leverage pilot to learn and build in sustainability model with payers.

**New Workforce Development Models (10 minutes)**

Community Paramedicine – updates on local efforts, policy, etc. (Caren, Kevin, Sam)

- Kevin - COVID first surge cut EMS volume b/c people were reluctant to get into the health system and get exposed. Cut workforce. Then there was a whiplash effect more into COVID when demand for EMS services increased. Assessment and providing vaccinations. Today on the ground has a workforce challenge. Things that could make it better such as Community Paramedicine and telehealth are cutting edge, however there's reluctance due to lack of reimbursement, adoption of new technology. State level - Maine EMS was able to hire a CP coordinator but they are leaving, and that job is open again.
- ET3 program - now showing great value in the areas where it has been implemented and will move EMS application of telehealth. Maine EMS doing strategic planning. We need to be patient and keep this on the agenda and in the next year we will see some updates.
- Jackman project making great strides. Some other areas in the state will try to mimic that.

**Opportunities for Telehealth and Community Health Workers (All) (10 minutes)**

Lisa L - desire from the state to recognize the importance of CHW role. Several pilots to fund CHWs. COVID disparities grant, CDC grant on CHWs and efforts from MaineCare to build into the PCP payment model, payment for CHW services. Strong desire to fund this --> school TBH. Now we need to coordinate - how can telehealth play into this?

John Holland - Grant to train and utilize CHWs across the state. 3yr grant. 13 organizations. Training, evaluating. It would be great to let them know about telehealth. Rural and underserved communities. People may be reluctant to come to the office, lack of transportation etc.

**Discussion**

	<p>Yvonne asked whether there is potential overlap with CHWs and CPs?  Kevin - CPs are clinical. There may be overlap - some of the training in CP is local resources, guides etc. Some areas partner with CHWs where CPs can be clinical, CHW can be the connectors. They can be competitive or work in co-existence.</p> <p>John - there may be interest in joining CP/CHW efforts. We will have a health advisory group. We should coordinate this at the outset - complimentary services</p> <p>Lizzy - looking for a digital navigator / educator. Do you have a curriculum around digital literacy? John will be happy to follow up on this.</p> <p>Sheila - We would love to provide some information or training to CHWs on basic mental health support</p> <p>Existing Resources noted by participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">National Digital Equity Center</a></li> <li>- MaineHealth /Roux Inst. Training</li> <li>- <a href="#">CHW Training Resources</a> through MCD Global Health</li> </ul>	<p>Caren will reach out to John and Kevin to coordinate next steps and planning for coordination</p> <p>John to follow up on whether there may be an existing curriculum around digital literacy.</p>	
<p><b>Resources and Opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>Resources and Opportunities (All)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Connectivity/Broadband: See updates on <a href="#">Maine Connectivity Authority website</a>. Next MCA Board Meeting August 12 – see info <a href="#">here</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Funding and Other Opportunities</b></p> <p>Forecasted opportunities on <a href="#">Grants.gov</a>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HRSA Rural Health Network Planning Grant – anticipated posting date: Oct. 27, 2022 (HRSA-23-036)</li> <li>- HRSA Rural Health Network Development Grant – anticipated posting date: August, 22, 2022 (HRSA-23-030)</li> <li>- HRSA RCORP Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) grant – anticipated posting date: Nov. 28 2022 (HRSA-23-094)</li> <li>- <a href="#">USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine grants</a> – anticipated to post in late Fall, 2022</li> </ul>		<p>FYI</p>

	<p><b>Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>NEW <a href="#">Telemedicine for Physical Exams Video</a> Now Live!</b></li> <li>- <b>Add your organization's telehealth services to <a href="#">Telehealth Locator</a>!</b></li> <li>- Check out other updates/opportunities in the most recent <a href="#">NETRC newsletter</a>, including speaker announcements for the <a href="#">2022 Regional TH Conference</a> to be held in Southbridge, MA Sept. 29 and 30, 2022.</li> <li>- New England Rural Health Association has announced <a href="#">2022 conference dates and registration</a> – will be hybrid event in November in Killington</li> <li>- <a href="#">American Public Health Association Annual Conference</a> - In Boston November 6 through 9; includes a Health Information Integration and Technology track</li> </ul>	<p>Encourage your org and others to add TH services to Telehealth Locator mapping tool</p>	<p>FYI</p> <p>All</p> <p>FYI</p>
<p><b>Next Steps and Adjourn</b></p>	<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>Items of interest for November meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Updates on policy post PHE (if it formally ends Oct. 16 as expected)</li> <li>- Updates from orgs which are part of the CHW grant moving forward - update on that from John Holland</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p>Reminded group of <a href="#">Advisory Group webpage</a> which houses meeting info and relevant resources.</p>	<p>Send out meeting summary and resources discussed; Include items of interest on November agenda</p>	<p>Danielle</p> <p>FYI</p> <p>FYI</p>
<p><b>Next Meeting: Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:30A-12P - likely remote only</b></p> <p><b>Zoom: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87371125847">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87371125847</a></b></p>			