Meeting Summary & Action Items

Maine Telehealth and Tele-Monitoring Quarterly Advisory Group Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 2, 2023 10:30AM-12:00PM

Attendees: Mel Lovering, Alecia Swihart, Erin Nadeau, Jen Brewer, Carol Carew, Henry Eckerson, Dr. Mike Ross, Tom Leet, Lisa Letourneau, Yvonne Jonk, Sue Woods, Angela Richards (replacing Mel Lovering), Andrew Solomon, Danielle Louder, Caren Bishop, Reid Plimpton, Michaela Fascione, Chris Gilding

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	FYI
TH/TM Priority Areas	**Promote Payment Change - TH Policy Post PHE and Q &A** Federal Policy Status Updates – PHE vs. 2024 Extensions Reid – COVID 19 PHE expected to end on May 11th per Biden Admin announcement this week. COVID 19 flexibilities would roll back. TRCs helping folks understand what is covered until 12/31/2024 versus the 151 - day grace period on other flexibilities. HIPAA back in full force May 11th Proposed Federal Rule Changes (e.g. Opioid Treatment Clinics) Reid – a few flexibilities permitted through other PHE that could fall outside of the telehealth flexibilities. We are waiting for the White House to say whether or not they think the opioid PHE would permit those flexibilities. Telehealth Policy Activity in Maine's 131st Legislature (5 related bills) You can now review the bills that were proposed. We identified 5 that are directly or likely related to telehealth. LR2270 – this is one to look at in particular and comments are encouraged. Language for the bills is not available yet. Carol – RE: pharmacists bill sponsored by Rep. Anne Perry – FQHCs in Washington County looking at forming their own pharmacy to work on issues getting Rx for 340b discount program – one of the barriers is	*Resources:* *Telehealth Related Bills in the 131st Maine Legislature* January 2023 Resource - Updated Private Payer MH Telehealth policies Senator King podcast on telehealth expansion; joined by Dr. Mike Ross Action: Policy Workgroup to share additional resources RE: end of PHE as they are developed	FYI Policy Workgroup

getting pharmacists. We are looking at out of state pharm groups but the current bill does not allow for remote prescribing. Yvonne – what is allowable for out of state licensure, other than social workers? Danielle/Reid – we are part of multiple interstate compacts, Maine is already participating in some of the older compacts, the Social Work compact is somewhat new. Andrew shared Audiology Compact as an exapmle. Dr. Ross – based on clinical practice, b/c various compacts are variable and require detailed understanding, the majority of legal advice to providers is to provide in state only. This limits ability to take care of anyone outside of state border. Not really a problem solver – administrative nightmare. LML – Even if someone gets licensed in Maine, under current MaineCare laws you cannot be a MaineCare provider unless you are physically in Maine or within 15 miles of the border. Henry – a provider can enroll with a physical site and then have other out of state providers, but physical presence must be in Maine or within 15 miles of Maine-NH border. Dr. Ross – eConsults – they don't require state licensure or credentialing as the responsibility for the patient remains with the primary care provider. An opportunity to look at this model to help address access issues? Updated Private Payer Policies – shared and briefly discussed latest updates to private payer policies for mental health services via telehealth – see January 2023 Resource	Reid shared follow up resources RE: current compacts and participating states: - CCHP Summary Chart: includes which compacts each state participates in - CSG Compact Resource Guide - CSG Compacts In Action Resource - CSG Compacts and Telehealth slides See CMS updated stance on eConsults released in Jan. 2023	Reid
Behavioral Health Digital Therapeutics – Updates, DRAFT one-pager/feedback Caren shared draft outline of resource guide and provided update since meeting with Groups Recover Together. Would like feedback from the Advisory on current outline, content, etc. Can provide input right within the web-based guide – see link.	Review draft outline of Digital Therapeutics Resource Guide and provide input	All

	Sue – should we focus on tools that are available now that we want clinicians to be aware of? Give them information on existing self-help tools. DTx is the future but still working on payment/reimbursement.

LML – yes we do want to make recommendations to providers on both the evidence base and tools that we think have real merit.

BH group to meet and Caren will make updates to resource guide to include digital health apps in addition to digital therapeutics.

2 new Toolkits in Beta Phase – please review and provide feedback:
- [Developing a School-Based Telebehavioral Health Program](#)
- [Telehealth for SUD and OUD Services](#)

Support Primary Care
[Maine eConsult Network](#) updates on live sites, network services, outreach - Andrew and Caren shared [slides](#) with update on pilot sites and specialty network. Positive feedback from PCP sites – eConsults have been returned quickly and saved patients hours of travel time.

Mel – opportunity to expand for services outside of primary care such as palliative care?

Danielle mentioned HRSA Rural Health Network Development grant proposal submitted that could extend and expand the pilot. If grant is awarded this would allow to expand to new sites, use cases, etc.

New Workforce Development Models
Updates RE: Telehealth and Community Health Workers (Caren, Danielle)

Caren & Danielle shared updates on CHW / telehealth case studies work being done with John Holland. 2 agencies will be selected and observe their use of telehealth on CHW activities. Reid shared published research on CHWs. Meeting with John 2/2 to discuss next steps.

Danielle - we are working in the state of Maine to get reimbursement for CHWs | Sue shared DTA [fact sheet](#) on Digital Health Landscape

Review Beta versions of new BH related toolkits in TH Classroom and provide feedback

Maine eConsult Network updates
- [Slide deck](#) from 2/2
- Maine eCN [one-pager](#)

See CCHPs [newsletter](#) focused on CMS' updated stance on eConsults for State Medicaid programs

Keep Advisory informed on next steps and deliverables for the two TH case studies | FYI

All

FYI

Caren and Danielle |

	Yvonne- mentioned connecting with Katherine Darling, who specializes in community health workers at Univ. Of Maine - we should connect with her if we have not yet. LML – working with a consultant to talk internally to all of the different offices about CHW funding, models; make a pitch to do the work to crystalize definitions, training, etc. telehealth not directly involved but could/should be part of conversations.		
Maine Broadband and Digital Equity Planning	**Maine Connectivity Authority** - **Digital Equity Task Force –** Maggie Drummond-Bahl, MCA Strategic Partnership Director, joined and provided updates on key activities and gathered input from the Advisory on telehealth/healthcare integration in Maine's Digital Equity Plan Have been deploying funds, launching programs to communities and regional partners Launching significant planning process in terms of digital equity New maps coming out to determine funding allocations to the State Working to get snapshot on what digital equity looks like in Maine – then engagement period; Stakeholders to develop their own plans **Q&A:** How can we get involved with those regional partners to get this money going into healthcare? Sue: Asking about cellular connectivity – do any of these grants/funds even talk about cellular? We need both. What can we do to make sure that that is promoted and discussed? - Mel – RPM system uses Bluetooth but still have to provide mifi units to get a boost – agree cellular is a need. - Maggie – we are investing in wireless technology, yes. Organizations like this need to reach out to MCA and say this needs to be part of the conversation. - Danielle mentioned MCA Jumpstart initiative which includes cellular and other innovative technologies	See Maggie's slide deck Attention to: How can we help slide Contact Maggie to set up time to provide additional input from your organizations/stakeholders perspective mbahl@maineconnectivity.org See list of Regional Broadband Partners on MCA website Maggie to provide list of contacts as well	FYI All Maggie/Danielle to follow up

	Yvonne – Ambulance desert chart book they have developed. 82,000 people live in a desert where no ambulance within 25 minutes. Think telehealth could play a role; overlaps with cell service.	Yvonne to share data to see if there is a way to address those gaps.	Yvonne/Danielle to follow up
Resources and Opportunities	**Resources and Opportunities (All)** Policy related resources: - CCHP newsletter – Preparing for the End of the PHE; - NCTRC post: End of PHE and HIPAA Enforcement Discretion - NCTRC Webinar Recording – Telehealth Policy in 2023 - Foley & Lardner Article: Removal of DEA DATA/X-Waiver - CMS Memo to States RE: Coverage of eConsults for Medicaid and CHIP Funding Forecasted - Evidence-Based Telehealth Network Program - Direct to Consumer (HRSA-23-092) - <mark>has been removed from Grants.gov</mark> Sue shared that the Roux Institute is starting a healthcare founder residency – we can invite someone from the Roux to talk about this if there is interest.	 Roux Institute's new Future of Healthcare Founder Residency program; Connect offline with Sue to discuss	FYI Danielle
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. Items of interest for May meeting: - Discuss G-codes going into effect in July (invite Christina Q?) - Policy updates, depending on where PHE lands - Updates/next steps RE: CHWs and TH, and Digital Therapeutics Reminded group of Advisory Group webpage which houses meeting info and relevant resources.	Send out meeting summary and resources discussed; Include items of interest on May agenda	Danielle FYI FYI
Next Meeting: Thursday, May 4, 2023 10:30A-12P **Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87371125847**			