Meeting Summary & Action Items

Maine Telehealth and Tele-Monitoring Quarterly Advisory Group Meeting

Date: Thursday, May 4, 2023 10:30AM-12:00PM

Attendees: Jennifer Peers, Erin Nadeau, Yvonne Jonk, Dr. Michael Ross, Angela Richards, Sue Woods, Henry Eckerson, Carol Carew, Laura Mrazik, Sam Hurley, 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.	Angela asked if we could add new G-codes for home health agencies to the agenda	FYI
TH/TM Priority Areas	**Promote Payment Change - TH Policy Post PHE** **CMS home health mandate going into effect in July** - Need to record telemonitoring, televideo, phone visits that are taking place. Angela said they will be looking for frequency of use and may address reimbursement. G codes are now active and mandated July 1. Will affect all home health programs; Many of these organizations may still not be putting this into their electronic records; Challenges include staff training, documentation burden, future reimbursement unknown. **DEA Proposed Rules** - Danielle reviewed current state and the recent DEA extension request. 38,000+ public comments received and being reviewed. - Discussion: - Carol mentioned suboxone will be a major "issue" and that many providers are using telehealth. Bucksport has one provider who is doing all of their visits remotely from a different part of the state - Link: https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eoDetails?rrid=311512 - Statement from the DEA Administrator Anne Milgram on COVID-19 Telemedicine Flexibilities for Prescription of Controlled Medications https://www.dea.gov/documents/2023/2023-	Resources and Action Items https://www.cms.gov/files/document/mm12805-telehealth-home-health-services-new-g-codes.pdf Should we offer a webinar for stakeholders? Danielle to follow up with Angela WaPo Article: **DEA seeks to temporarily extend virtual prescribing for controlled substances** https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/05/03/dea-seeks-temporarily-extend-virtual-prescribing-controlled-substances/ Full publication in Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/05/10/2023-09936/temporary-extension-of-covid-19-telemedicine-flexibilities-for-prescription-of-controlled	FYI Danielle FYI

05/2023-05-03/statement-dea-administrator-anne-milgram-covid-19-telemedicine • **Update: Officially extended** - Rule is effective **May 11, 2023, through November 11, 2024.** **HIPAA Extension –** 90 day grace period goes out to 8/9/23 https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2023-07824.pdf?utm_source=federalregister.gov&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pi+subscription+mailing+list		FYI
Maine's 131st Legislature Update: LD 1749: PT Licensure Compact • Reid commented that a public hearing is taking place today 5/4 • Danielle added that the bill will create licensure compact for PT and require background checks LD 940: Telepharmacy • Carol shared that this bill was submitted to help address long-standing access to pharmacy services in Washington and Hancock counties • Pharmacy Board has some regulations but looked into expanding; Bill identified as ought not to pass because pharmacy board can approve without legislation. LD 361: Increase MaineCare Reimbursement for Electronic Consultations • Danielle added to the agenda and shared in chat: https://legislature.maine.gov/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=SP0168&item=1&snum=131 • Mainecare submitted testimony opposing bill; Henry commented Mainecare is installing process for rate studies and rate setting. Increasing a rate for a single service would upset the point to create an overarching rate setting schedule based on methodology. • Danielle commented that eConsults are not being covered consistently among private payers, although Maine's private payer law requires coverages of asynchronous telehealth. LD 1249 • Bill would prohibiting physicians from prescribing abortion-inducing drugs or devices through telehealth or other electronic communication	Language and current status of bills discussed: LD 1749, LD 940, LD 361, LD 1249	FYI

	• Public hearing 5/5 at 9am **Behavioral Health** Behavioral Health/Digital Therapeutics – "Digital Health Resource Guide" • Small team is working on a toolkit on digital health, with therapeutics as a component. • Sue woods provided foundation for toolkit • Toolkit will provide an introduction to what it is and why it's important, as well as example programs and resources, such as OneMind PsyberGuide	Review current version of guide and provide any additional feedback: https://360.articulate.com/review/content/765f7218-7faf-4154-9d5e-4373f5057948/review	All
	PNMI: (Private Non-Medical Institutions) • Reid introduced project – goal is integration of telehealth into PNMIs across Maine; Site visits with participating sites nearly complete – reviewed infrastructure needs and program needs; Will extend at least one or two video access points; Two-year project will include a second cohort next year • Working with Perkins Access to identify and implement assistive design considerations		FYI
	Support Primary Care eConsults: • Andrew provided an update including link to derm training: https://vimeo.com/813412707 • Discussion: How can we best enable providers to leverage eConsult and how do we move forward on sustainability?		FYI
	Virtual Dental Home: • Reid introduced Children's Oral Health Program • Danielle showed current "Establishing a Virtual Dental Home Program" toolkit, • Reid highlighted that some considerations include EHR to DHR communication/data sharing challenges. • Carol commented that most FQHCs have dental programs. Bucksport has a portable chair to bring to schools	VDH Toolkit: currently in beta mode and open for feedback from the group: https://360.articulate.com/review/content/c2bca213-7984-48bc-afcd-6992a1ea25dd/review	All

Maine Broadband and Digital Equity Planning	**TH/TM Advisory Recommendations for Maine's Broadband and Digital Equity Planning** - In follow up to February meeting and presentation by MCA's Maggie Drummond-Bahl on state-wide Broadband and Digital Equity Planning efforts, recommendations were drafted on behalf of TH/TM - Group reviewed draft recommendations in real time; provided initial feedback - NETRC team will send out a link to allow for any additional feedback to be included by the group (via Google docs by 5/12/2023)	Review DRAFT recommendations and provide feedback in Google docs by Friday, May 12 Send final TH/TM Recommendations to MCA for consideration on 5/12/23; Final version sent to MCA on 5/12/23	All Danielle
Resources and Opportunities	**Resources and Opportunities (All)** • OIG Toolkit - Analyzing Telehealth Claims to Assess Program Integrity Risks: https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/OEI-02-20-00723.pdf • Reid shared link to register for upcoming NCTRC webinar on Telehealth Access Points (TAPs). Also shared link to mapping tool for TAPs: https://wimtracking.com/taps/ • Sue shared Roux Institute healthcare startup support program that may want to work with local organizations: https://mainestartupsinsider.com/roux-institute-launches-future-of-healthcare-founder-residency/ • Reid provided updates on the NETRC regional conference in September • New Telehealth Tip sheets developed in collaboration with National Association of Community Health Centers: Documentation, Billing, E/M Coding, Reimbursement, Auditing	OIG Toolkit: https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/OEI-02-20-00723.pdf TAP webinar recording: TAP into Telehealth: Innovative Models of Telehealth Access Points (TAPs) - YouTube NETRC Conference Sept. 18-19 in Nashua, NH: Registration; Call for Abstracts; Michael Edwards Award Nominations	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. Items of interest for August meeting: - Sue suggested inviting speaker from Roux Institute - Sue commented that there are threats to traditional healthcare industry, such as CVS, etc., and asked if the group should have a	Send out meeting summary and resources discussed; Include items of interest on August agenda Consider in-person meeting for August, with a strategic planning approach? Discuss and communicate plan/logistics	Danielle NETRC team

	conversation about how this group should function, what is relevant to the state, etc. - Angela comments that AI should be on the radar - Reid shared TH/TM duties per statute: The advisory group shall: A. Evaluate technical difficulties related to telehealth and telemonitoring services; and B. Make recommendations to the department to improve telehealth and telemonitoring services statewide. For the purposes of this section, "telehealth" and "telemonitoring" have the same meaning as in section 3173-H, subsection 1, paragraphs D and E. - Andrew suggested a SWOT analysis Reminded group of Advisory Group webpage which houses meeting info and relevant resources.		

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 3, 2023 10:30A-12P

Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87371125847