Maine Telehealth and Telemonitoring Advisory Group Agenda

Thursday, February 6, 2025 (10:30AM – 12:00PM)
Remote ONLY: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84757320540
Meeting ID: 847 5732 0540
By Phone: 1-646-558-8656
Webpage: https://netrc.org/work-group.php

Invitees: Maine Telehealth and Telemonitoring Advisory Group Membership
Attendees: Danielle Louder, Andrew Solomon, Caren Bishop, Reid Plimpton, Erica James, Carol Carew, Timothy Terranova, Mara Larkin, Natalia Johnson, Mike Kiers, Maggie Drummond-Bahl, Sue Woods, Yvonne Jonk, Stephanie Gagne, Jamilyn Murphy-Hughes

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10:30A   **Welcome, Announcements & Agenda Scan** *(Danielle Louder, All)*

10:35A   **Priority Areas: Key Updates and Action Items**
- **Maine Connectivity Authority –** Digital Opportunity Networks, NTIA funding and other updates *(Maggie Drummond-Bahl)*

MDB - link in chat - https://www.maineconnectivity.org/networks
New grant – digital opportunity networks grant program
$5million total, application open now – min $250k max $750k
Digital inclusion support to existing programs serving 8 priority populations statewide
Eligible applicants – look to the page for requirements
Looking for diversity of project types, different scales, variety of impacts, education, health, access to care, various outcomes. 2 office hours sessions are scheduled and available on the website.
Letters of interest open now due March 3rd

Review throughout month of March then invite applicants by April 1st, awards made in June, work starts in 3rd quarter of 2025

Working on setting up statewide tool Tech Help for ME – help with digital inclusion and equity – online tool in a mobile version then in a desktop/web version to help people identify where resources are. Launching in the spring.

Also launching statewide device donation and refurbishment campaign. Later in the Spring after Tech Help for ME campaign – GiveITGetIT – increase the flow of devices.

Working on pilot program launching in March to improve connectivity and digital inclusion in affordable housing. Funding 2-3 pilots

NTIA – funding 2 awards in Maine through the digital equity competitive funding $24.8million between the 2 – NDEC is one award with lots of partners - 2nd is with the Wabanaki partners $11million affordability for broadband service in the tribal communities. Federal funding concerns and DEI – we are watching these events closely. Andrew Butcher was in DC meeting with members of the commerce committee, we have been given a court order that we must continue to comply with our funding obligations, so things are committed and obligated. These competitive awards have not yet been signed so they are in a different space.

- **Promote Payment Change** *(Policy Workgroup)*
  - Federal (see [CCHP webinar](#)) and state policy updates; [DEA final and proposed rules](#) and related [article](#); Potential EO implications (see [CTeL synopsis](#), etc.

LHM: Gov't funding ends March 15, with all the chaos they're not focusing on that yet. Directionally telehealth is something that is bipartisan. It's too soon to tell, but it does seem that everyone supports it.

Chat

> Special Registration Rules; Comments open through 3/18/25:
> https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/17/2025-01099/special-registrations-for-telemedicine-and-limited-state-telemedicine-registrations
>
> *https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2025/01/16/dea-announces-three-new-telemedicine-rules-continue-open-access*

LHM – state level – nothing to mention specific to telehealth

Reid: LR379 an act to permit telehealth services across state lines … will keep an eye on this one.

- **Behavioral Health** *(BH Workgroup)*
  - Review/Discuss: DRAFT BH One-Pager
  - RMOMS Virtual Care Perinatal Behavioral Health Program live! *(MaineHealth Team)*

Anna Gilbert: Shared PPT presentation. RMOMS grant. Telehealth / BH. In year 3 of 4-year grant.

CB: Shared one pager for MH resources – asked for feedback on resources that could be added.

BH workgroup – where do we go from here?

- **Support Primary Care** *(Andrew, Caren)*
  - eConsult updates/opportunities

Andrew: eConsult pilot wrapped up, but the service provider is still active with a few of the organizations and CCPM is continuing work with a Picasso MD which as a real time eConsult. We also had the opportunity to connect ConferMed with UMMC Center of Excellence – eConsult pilot project. To leverage AI to read the clinical notes going to the specialist.
https://telehealthcoe.org/about-telehealth-centers-of-excellence/ummc-coe/

Carol: We've had access to both Picasso and ConferMed – we've opted to buy into ConferMED and they don't seem to go with the real time eConsult as much.

- **PCLB Foundation Project Updates –** TAPs (Bridging the Gap, Aroostook County, PCHC Street Medicine) *(Reid, Danielle)*

RP: update on BTG Augusta area, Groups Recover Together, intake spot for GROUPS patients. They are nearly ready to have community members use the technology.

CB: ACAP and Aroostook county TAPS - https://www.aroostookaging.org/access-points installing telehealth enabled technology into existing community access points throughout Aroostook County.

RP: PCHC Street Medicine – plum technologies – briefcase that has cellular and wifi capacity built in to

allow PCHC NP to support street medicine she was providing to the homeless encampment. Connectivity briefcase.

Erica: We had a client with poor connectivity – is there an opportunity to have nurses go into the home with this type of technology?

RP: This solution is fairly expensive - $8k,

Yvonne: EMS – Busko has been doing things with community paramedicine and connecting patients in the field in their homes with PCP, are there other opportunities in the state where we could implement a similar model? In terms of broadband services that EMS has access to, FirstNet or satellite? How are they able to connect from these rural areas?

RP: He has purchased with Buck foundation funding a higher tier briefcase than this one, multiple carriers and multiple connection points. Could learn more from him directly.

11:40A   **Resources and Opportunities**
- Recent Resources on Telehealth:
- Federal Funding Opportunities
    - HRSA [Rural Health Network Development Planning Grant](#) – 2/19/25
    - USDA [Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants](#) – due 3/6/25
    - HRSA [Regional and National Telehealth Resource Centers](#) – 4/14/25
    - HRSA [Telehealth Research Center](#) – 4/15/25
    - HRSA [Telehealth Rapid Response Center](#) – 4/15/25
    - HRSA [Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies Program](#) – 4/22/25
- Upcoming Events, etc.
    - [NRHA Rural Health Policy Institute](#) – February 11-13, Washington D.C.
    - [ATA Nexus2025](#) – May 3-6, New Orleans, LA
    - [NRHA Annual Rural Health Conference](#) – May 20-23, Atlanta, GA
    - [Maine AI Conference](#) – June 13, 2025 University of Maine Orono
    - Mid-June – Maine Digital Equity Alliance Annual Workshop; Central Maine
    - Stay Tuned – In-depth Telehealth Reimbursement/RCM Boot Camp; Summer 2025

11:55A   **Wrap-Up & Next Steps** *(Danielle)* **-** Action items and agenda items for next meeting

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12:00P   **Adjourn**

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 1, 2025; 10:30am to 12:00pm