

Q2 Maine Telehealth and Telemonitoring Advisory Committee – May 29, 2025

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Lisa Harvey-McPherson, Erica James, Lisa Letourneau, Andrea Gimpel-Blanchard, Carol Carew, Alecia Swihart, Gregory Hurter, Laura Mrazik, Sally Weiss, Danielle Louder, Caren Bishop, Reid Plimpton, Andrew Solomon

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

10:35A Priority Areas: Key Updates and Action Items

- **Promote Payment Change (Policy Workgroup)**

State and Federal policy considerations: Updates on telehealth and adjacent policy activity

Resources: [CCHP write-up](#) and CMS & ONC Release [RFI on Strengthening the Health Technology Ecosystem](#) - Comments due 6/16/25; Evaluation of Remote Monitoring Policies and Benefits – [CCHP write-up](#) and [Peterson Center on Healthcare Report](#); [The MAHA Report](#); Watch for the 2026 Proposed PFS to drop soon!

DL: Positive movement from mass groups of people responding to these types of RFIs and moving policy. If we want to collectively provide feedback, we can facilitate – encourage all to provide input on this RFI.

LHMP: not a specific discussion around addressing a need to fix something regarding telehealth all session. Federally – waivers expire Sep 30th – telehealth on the list of usual extenders will be a September discussion after the August recess.

DL: 2026 proposed physician fee schedule will come out around the beginning of July
<https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/digital-health/get-rid-telehealth-barriers-medicare-patients-good>
AMA is strongly advocating for the extension of telehealth.

RP: <https://telehealthresourcecenter.org/resources/the-telehealth-policy-cliff-preparing-for-october-1-2025/>
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/WH-The-MAHA-Report-Assessment.pdf>

<https://www.hhs.gov/press-room/maha-commission-childhood-chronic-disease-root-causes.html>

DL: We have been asked to respond how we are supporting MAHA initiatives – telenutrition, prevention and management of chronic disease etc.

LML: How could we position/leverage telehealth with primary care, preventative services to catch the attention at the national level?

- **AI Task Force and Healthcare AI Workgroup (Lisa L)**
 - o Updates and discussion of opportunities moving forward

LML: Shared [slides](#) overview of Gov. Mills' task force on AI – next task force meeting focused on Healthcare June 4th – open to public <https://www.maine.gov/future/meetings/ai-task-force-meeting-5>

How are people in this group using AI in their organization? Suggestions for the task force? Are there concerns? What is the role of state government and AI?

Erica: At MaineHealth got a notification that we can't use AI that isn't MaineHealth approved – ChatGPT is not, Copilot is not. We're being restricted and there's not a lot of guidance.

LHMP: New England Life Care – hospital cooperative, Maine, NH, and Mass – they have embraced AI, patients going home, and AI communicating with the patients. Bots trigger when they need a human intervention. Opportunity in home care, hospice.

Laura: In the process of piloting ambient scribing – contracted with a vendor. Policies in place for guardrails around AI while they figure out what to do next. Existing IT application partners – HRS (RPM vendor) added in AI functionality

Carol: Bucksport is using AI – Suno AI for documentation and referrals – huge satisfaction for providers. Looking at using AI for chart review, peer review. Using it for patient reminders/prompts. Patients responding well.

Sally: CEO of small rural hospital using AI to help her with financial analysis of the hospital, reimbursement, deep dive of changes happening year over year. Used to spend thousands of dollars on consultants to do this.

CB: <https://phti.org/ai-adoption-early-applications-impacts/>

DL: What would be most helpful for this group AI related?

LML: Are there any recommendations that this group would like to give to the task force? That translates to policy? Beyond that, what is the role of this group? **Larger discussion at next meeting.**

- **Support Primary Care (Andrew, Caren)**
- **PNMI Update (Reid)**

RP: Shared [slides](#) on project wrap-up with results.

See webpage for resources: [Telehealth Access Point Resource Hub | MCD Global Health](#)
Over 1500 patients now have access to these devices.

DL: One of the things we heard from providers is that they wouldn't know that their patients were PNMI residents. How can we help get the word out and get patients connected?

LHMP: Trying to connect with the providers can be a bit more challenging. Who are they connecting with?

RP: All of the facilities that have had their devices for at least 3 months reported that they've used it at least 10 times. We didn't connect them to vendors – just existing providers. We left materials to empower the staff and patients to communicate to providers. We'd love if there was a way that providers could get this information in other ways.

Erica: We do primarily telehealth with schools – running into productivity in the summer b/c we lose access to the schools and can't access kids at home. Is there anywhere else we can access them?

RP: TAPS in non-medical settings would be an opportunity.

o Maine Seacoast Mission – Project efforts and resources

AS: HRSA northern border outreach grant – implement a strategy to improve access to care on the islands through telehealth – sunbeam boat providing services. Going through strategic planning process with local healthcare providers. St. Joes, Islands community medical services and MDI hospital. Goals: Just purchased 5 telehealth kits, laptop-based and tablet-based, to deploy on various islands. Reaching out to all the health systems to do telehealth test calls. Learn about the various software and telehealth protocols and document the workflows. Implementing an evaluation plan.

- **PCLB Foundation - Final Project Updates**

- o TAPs and Next Steps/Connections for Enhanced Access (Reid, Caren)

DL: Helping set them up in Aroostook County, Bridging the Gap in the Augusta Area, Good-Will Hinkley, Baileyville Community Center and with some of Maine's unbridged islands

Toolkit - <https://rise.articulate.com/share/HbA553zu26UNYbT6i3BqA8spAK41nZtH>

- **Digital Equity – Digital Opportunity Networks, funding and other updates (Danielle)**

DL: MCA has disseminated over \$250 million dollars to date including both infrastructure and digital equity initiatives – everyone who wants to be served in the state of Maine will be served. Digital Equity Act terminated by the Trump Administration. Looking for alternative funding – moving forward with reviewing proposals. Maine is one of 22 states that is researching the best way from a legal perspective to be part of any court case that moves forward with requesting that these funds be reinstated.

11:00A Group Discussion: Current Landscape and Potential Telehealth Innovations

Discuss the current landscape (funding/payment, facility and service closures, workforce, policy, MAHA, etc.) and brainstorm specific opportunities to better leverage telehealth to address key

gaps and challenges. Identify specific roles for TH/TM Workgroups as appropriate...

Erica: We are struggling with staffing. Not able to float staff between facilities. Trying to get people to use more telehealth. Remotely floating staff to support simple procedures. HR barrier. Sharing capacity.

Laura: We've leveraged remote work quite a bit using telehealth. Can connect and share more.

RP: ATA heavy on virtual nursing and AI.

RP: Upcoming Events

8/1: Bridging Rural Communities:

*Telehealth Innovations for Appalachia and Beyond <https://bridgingruralcommunities.org/>
STAY TUNED FOR MAINE LOCATIONS (Millinocket has been confirmed)*

8/11- NETRC/NERHA Telehealth RCM and ROI Workshop:

<https://www.nerha.org/events/0yrk4t4f4uee4z7do8df2ewn6lfnza>

Join us at MCD's office in Hallowell or online for this free billing and coding workshop!

June 25, July 23 and August 12 - [Healthcare AI Boot Camp](#) – Hosted by California TRC in collaboration with multiple TRCs; Three sessions; most sessions available for virtual participation

11:40A Resources and Opportunities

- Recent Resources on Telehealth: [Harnessing Telehealth to Enhance Patient Care](#) (Mayo Clinic Report); [Get Rid of Telehealth Barriers for Medicare Patients—For Good](#) (AMA Statement);
- National TRC Resources: June 12 webinar - [Future of Telemedicine and Digital Health to Catalyze Care Delivery](#); [Patient Portal Resources](#)
- Funding Opportunities: Private and other (e.g. Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation)
- Upcoming Events, etc.
 - o Stay Tuned! Healthcare AI Bootcamp Virtual Series – June 25, July 23 and August 12
 - o [Maine AI Conference](#) – June 13 University of Maine Orono
 - o [Bridging Rural Communities: Telehealth Innovations](#) – Aug 1; Livestreaming at community locations throughout Appalachian Trail
 - o [Demystifying RCM and ROI for Telehealth](#) - August 11; Hallowell & Virtual
 - o Late Summer – Maine Digital Equity Alliance Annual Workshop; Central Maine
 - o New England Rural Health Association [Fall Conference](#) – Nov. 4-5, Mystic, CT

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

12:00P Adjourn