

Maine Telehealth & Telemonitoring (THTM) Advisory Group Q1 2026 Meeting Minutes

Date: February 5, 2026

Time: 10:30 AM –12:00 PM (ET)

Facilitator: Danielle Louder, Northeast Telehealth Resource Center

Notes Prepared By: Andrew Solomon via ChatGPT

Attendees: Andrew Solomon, Caren Bishop, Lizzy Mulcahy, Stephanie Gagne, Natalia Johnson, Danielle Louder, Erica James, Mara Larkin, Laura Mrazik, Sally Weiss, Yvonne Jonk, Carol Carew, Reid Plimpton, Tracy Jalbuena, Lisa Harvey-McPherson, Timothy Terranova, Michaela Fascione, Jamilyn Murphy-Hughes, Tia Bolduc

Guest: Andrew Eppich, Maine DHHS Commissioner's Office

MEETING PURPOSE

The Maine Telehealth and Telemonitoring Advisory Group convened to:

- Share legislative and policy updates relevant to telehealth and AI.
- Discuss emerging funding and collaboration opportunities.
- Review and gather early feedback on the Maine THTM AI in Healthcare Statewide Survey.
- Identify outreach/research priorities related to telehealth flexibilities, policy instability, and unintended consequences.
- Strengthen cross-organization collaboration.

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Danielle Louder welcomed participants and reviewed the meeting objectives. Participants briefly introduced themselves. Several attendees noted potential early departures due to overlapping meetings.

2. Telehealth Legislative & Policy Updates

Danielle Louder and Lisa Harvey McPherson kicked off the discussion with comments regarding the recent signing of the federal budget bill on February 2, which extended telehealth flexibilities through 12/31/2027. Members shared common relief but all agreed that further action is needed to ensure permanency of policy changes which allow for widespread adoption of digital health solutions moving forward.

Reid Plimpton shared references to current Maine telehealth related legislation, including:

- LD [1583](#): Status – voted ought to pass as amended on 1-15-26 on motion by Sen. Moore, second by Rep. Graham
- LD [2082](#): Last known status - Referred To Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, 1-7-26

Discussion:

- Participants acknowledged progress on advancing telehealth-related legislation and congratulated partners involved in moving bills forward.
- MaineHealth noted they have internal data that may help inform policy conversations.
- Emphasis was placed on ensuring legislation reflects real-world implementation, access challenges, and emerging technology-enabled care models.

Danielle shared that the Policy Workgroup is focused on developing a new resource focused on bringing attention to the impact that fluctuating Medicare telehealth coverage has had on patient health access and outcomes, as a means to promote permanent policy updates which remove historical barriers to widespread adoption. They are looking to highlight changes in utilization and access data, overlaid with patient experiences/stories.

Key Takeaway:

Legislative advocacy should continue to be informed by health system data and frontline implementation experiences.

3. Data Sharing & Collaboration Opportunities

Lizzy Mulcahy indicated MaineHealth has data relevant to telehealth utilization, access, and potentially outcomes.

Danielle Louder expressed interest in connecting with Lizzy to explore potential data sharing and alignment. Laura Mrazik also volunteered to join future discussions related to these efforts. Caren Bishop agreed to forward meeting invitations.

Key Takeaway:

There is strong interest in strengthening data-informed discussions across organizations.

4. Forecasted Funding Opportunities

Danielle Louder highlighted a potential opportunity:

- Telehealth Nutrition Services Network Grant Program

This opportunity may complement population health and nutrition-focused initiatives and could align with telehealth expansion efforts.

Discussion:

- Participants noted nutrition-focused telehealth services could address chronic disease management and access gaps.
- Opportunity may fit within broader population health and equity strategies under Rural Health Transformation initiatives.

5. Research & Evaluation Priorities

Yvonne Jonk (USM) shared that USM participates in the Rural Telehealth Research Center with partners in Iowa and North Carolina.

USM is developing new one-year research projects and is seeking input from the group on priority topics, including:

- Unintended consequences of telehealth “flexibilities”
- Impacts of policy instability on providers and patients
- Additional issues affecting rural and underserved populations

Discussion:

- Need for evidence documenting how policy changes affect access, quality, cost, and equity.
- Interest in research that supports state-level decision making.
- Opportunity to align research questions with Maine implementation priorities.

Key Takeaway:

Workgroup members are encouraged to share potential research questions with USM.

6. Maine THTM AI in Healthcare Statewide Survey

Andrew Solomon shared preview access to the Maine THTM AI in Healthcare Survey.

Caren Bishop shared the survey link:

www.surveymonkey.com/share/aa0b1224-9923-4fbb-9f00-4822263d0717

Danielle Louder confirmed the link worked.

Discussion:

- Survey aims to gather information on current AI use, planned use, barriers, and support needs.
- Lizzy Mulcahy asked whether ACCESS and equity considerations are being captured.
- Group emphasized importance of including questions on workforce impact, data governance, and patient safety.

Key Takeaway:

Members are encouraged to review the survey and provide feedback prior to next meeting.

7. Collaboration & Engagement

Lizzy Mulcahy expressed interest in being actively engaged in future efforts and encouraged the group to include MaineHealth where helpful.

8. Resources

Danielle shared the draft updated design for the Maine Telehealth and Telemonitoring Advisory Group webpage and invited members to share feedback/suggestions to help make the page more comprehensive and user friendly moving forward.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Danielle Louder to follow up with Lizzy Mulcahy regarding MaineHealth telehealth data
2. Caren Bishop to forward workgroup meeting invitations to Laura Mrazik.
3. All members to review and provide feedback on the AI in Healthcare Survey.
4. Members to share potential research questions with Yvonne Jonk (USM).
5. Andrew Solomon and Caren Bishop to ensure access and equity considerations are clearly reflected in AI survey and future work.
6. Danielle to share meeting notes and RHTP slide deck to THTM webpage and via email

NEXT MEETINGS

THTM Q2 Advisory: Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 10:30 AM (ET)

THTM Q3 Advisory: Thursday, August 6, 2026 at 10:30 AM (ET)

THTM Q4 Advisory: Thursday, November 5, 2026 at 10:30 AM (ET)

AI Workgroup: Monday, February 9, 2026 at 12:00 PM (ET)

Second Monday of each month. Email Andrew Solomon (asolomon@mcd.org) to request the meeting invite.

Clinical Applications Workgroup: Thursday, February 12 at 11:00 AM (ET)

Second Thursday of each month. Email Caren Bishop (carenmbishop@gmail.com) to request the meeting invite.

Policy Workgroup: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 11:00 AM (ET)

Fourth Wednesday of every other month. Email Danielle Louder (dlouder@mcd.org) to request the meeting invite.