

# Telehealth Alliance of Oklahoma (TAO) Meeting Minutes

## 6/13/2017

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**Attendance:** *Reji Varghese, Dawn Watson, Lane Hooton, Josh Braziel, Janet Wilson, Candace Shaw, Scott Bumgarner, Sandra Harrison, Cassidy Height, Jennifer Kellbach, Spencer Kusi, Patti Davis, Corey Stetson, Natasha Michael, Angela Surratt (remote), Randy Curry (remote), Martha Gragg (remote), Jane Kellog (remote), Marci White (remote), and Hanna Cable*

**Welcome/Opening Remarks:** The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Mr. Reji Varghese. Introductions were made of those attending remotely, and a quorum was present.

**Meeting minutes:** The meeting minutes from May 9<sup>th</sup> were presented by Mr. Scott Bumgarner. After review, a motion to approve was made by Mr. Lane Hooton, and seconded by Mr. Bumgarner. The motion to approve was passed.

**Treasurer's report:** Ms. Sandra Harrison presented the treasurer's report for May 2017. Ms. Harrison noted two checks written for the month, and no incoming revenue. She noted that 18 invoices were sent out to organizations for annual dues, and again noted that Hillcrest Medical Center was joining TAO, and we could expect their dues soon. A motion to approve the report was made by Mr. Scott Bumgarner, and seconded by Mr. Josh Braziel, and the motion to approve was passed.

**Legislative report:** Ms. Harrison reported that there is no new legislation at this time. Ms. Harrison then updated the group on SB 726, regarding telemedicine, which passed and is due to be implemented November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. She stated she was not sure how this will play out, and the official stance is "cautiously optimistic." Ms. Harrison also updated the group on HB 1377, which was originally about forming a task force to look into the structure, performance, and effectiveness of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. The bill was amended heavily, the makeup of the committee was changed, and the bill is dormant and an executive order is being sought instead. A final report is due September of 2018. Ms. Harrison gave some background about this bill as it applies to and affects rural healthcare entities due to the Universal Service Fund. Ms. Harrison also updated the group on two other items, one a bill for state licensure for

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radiologic technologists, which went nowhere, and a patient remote monitoring bill.

Mr. Reji Varghese also suggested regarding HB 726 that TAO solicit input from providers, and look for what drugs might be prescribed under this, and to look for loopholes as well that we could present to the Board of Licensure to be alert for and for possibility of adopting rules for clarity. He also mentioned one of the difficulties with independent and/or outside telemedicine providers being a lack of integration with their medical records and other regional healthcare entity EMRs. This could allow for doctor shopping and drug abuse if these records are not linked.

### ***Board Governance update:***

**Election of board of directors** was held for the 3 Board positions expiring on June 30, 2017, all of which are for a new 3-year terms ending in June 2020. Ms. Dawn Watson had previously e-mailed out the current position holders with an opportunity to write in candidates. The governance committee presented the slate of candidates for the positions as listed below and entertained nominations.

Scott Bumgarner, Saints 1st Network/ St. Anthony's, OKC

Sandra Harrison, Oklahoma Hospital Association, OKC

Reji Varghese, Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure, OKC

Seeing no other nominations, all three incumbents were re-elected for another three year term.

**Next Election for Board Officers** was held for FY 2018 (July 2017 through June 2018)

The current chair, Mr. Varghese, nominated Ms. Harrison for a one-year term as chair, and the group voted and she unanimously affirmed and elected. Lane Hooton, current vice-chair, was nominated for re-election by Janet Wilson and Josh Brazeil, and was approved to another term. Scott Bumgarner, current secretary, was nominated for re-election by Janet Wilson and Lane Hooton, and was approved for another term. The position of treasurer, left open by Ms.

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Harrison's appointment to the Chair position, was tabled for further discussion, even though Mr. Derek Dobbins has been strongly recommended for the position.

**CTel report:** Mr. Varghese, Ms. Harrison, Dr. Lufkin, and licensure board member Hank Ross attended a CTel conference in May in Washington, DC. CTel is formally known as the Robert J. Waters Center for Telehealth and e-Health Law, which was established in 1995. It is a non-profit, agnostic, legal and regulatory telehealth research institute. Ms. Harrison and Mr. Varghese had to honor to present at the conference on the Oklahoma experience of an outside company's attempt to come into the state, request a change in the law, and how that might affect the healthcare situation not only in Oklahoma but in other states. There was discussion at the conference regarding how states adopt telemedicine and the effects on their health departments, and how telemedicine is adopted by different health systems, and how ROI is determined and measured by them. There was discussion devoted to the need to begin collection data on telehealth ROI to provide to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), with a deadline of November 2017, to determine whether it is cost neutral or cost saving, which in turn will affect how reimbursement is determined in the future. Current limited reimbursement is based on the assumption from 2001 data that telemedicine was a costly method of delivering healthcare services. Mr. Varghese also noted there was discussion about "fake news", where licensure boards got the blame for holding up credentialing, which is not true. There was also discussion about some studies showing the use of telemed "cooling off" within certain health systems, less utilization.

**Educational Presentation:** The education presentation was provided by Ms. Candace Shaw, Senior Director, Banner Telehealth Services. The title was "Telehealth's Best Practices: Today's Capability and Tomorrow's Vision in Arizona". Ms. Shaw gave an overview of Telehealth in Arizona from when it began in 1996 to where it is today, citing the large number of geographic locations, service line, the commitment to the same standard of care across the spectrum, and ROI and results from all the efforts. Ms. Shaw's complete slide

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deck can be obtained through TAO for further review, as it is too large and detailed for summary here.

**Meeting adjournment:** The meeting was concluded at 11:44 a.m. and a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Harrison; a second was made by Mr. Braziel, and the motion to adjourn was approved by the group. The topic for the next meeting will be the state telehealth survey.

*Upcoming TAO meetings at Oklahoma State Medical Board offices from 10:00 to noon:*

- July 11th, 2017\* On site: 101 NE 51st St, Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Minutes signed by Scott Bumgarner, Secretary

  
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Signature

  
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Date