

Telehealth Alliance of Oklahoma (TAO) Meeting Minutes

3/14/2017

Attendance: *Reji Varghese, Pam Forducey, Dawn Watson, Josh Braziel, Robin Moore, Sandra Harrison, Cassiday Height, Brent Wilborn, Jennifer Kellbach, Marcy White (remote), Ariel Lufkin), Natalie Hampton (remote), Angela Surrat (remote).*

Welcome/Opening Remarks: The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Mr. Reji Varghese. Introductions were made of all in attendance, and a quorum was present.

Meeting minutes: The meeting minutes from February were presented by Dawn Watson. After review, the minutes were approved by Ms. Robin Moore, and seconded by Mr. Scott Bumgarner. The motion to approve was passed.

Treasurer's report: Ms. Sandra Harrison presented the treasurer's reports for January and February. Ms. Harrison noted the beginning and ending balances for each month, and that there was a credit from OUHSC as they had inadvertently turned off the phone service for TAO. A motion to approve the reports was made by Ms. Pam Forducey, seconded by Dr. Ariel Lufkin, and the motion to approve was passed.

CTEL Report: Ms. Forducey gave a report on a Ctel meeting she attended. Topics included current laws, regulations and policies, insurance claims, standard of care, and licensure. Ms. Forducey also noted on the discussion of telephonic only consultations, that Maryland is the only state who currently approves it. She also reviewed a presentation she attended about a study by the Rand Corporation stating that doing virtual visits actually drew new patients, instead of existing patients trying a new method of access.

Legislative report: Ms. Harrison updated the group on the status of bills of interest to telemedicine. Several bills, including 1580, 2239, 2243, 716, and 785 are dormant until 2018. HB 1893, an ARRP sponsored bill relating to remote monitoring and reimbursement, will be amended significantly and be a pilot study. SB 726, of great interest to TAO, is still going through the amendment process with bill sponsor and providers. Ms. Harrison also updated the group on current regulations under consideration. The first dealt with proposed changes to

Telehealth Alliance of Oklahoma (TAO) Meeting Minutes 3/14/2017

reflect the need to eliminate the redundant informed consent requirement from the Telemedicine Act, as well as updating some terminology. The second regulation change proposed dealt with the OKDMHSAS updating terminology and definitions. The third regulation dealt with the OCC and OUSF administrator utilizing certain procedures when evaluating a request for OUSF funding for a telemedicine line.

Discussion of SB 726: Ms. Harrison led the group in a line by line review of the latest version of proposed changes. The bill is sponsored by Senator A.J. Griffin, and requested by the Teladoc Company, who is pushing to get telephonic only telemedicine services approved in Oklahoma. TAO has engaged the services of cTEL to help with this effort, and also has the support of the OSMA, OHA, and OOA. Senator Griffin has set a deadline of March 23rd to come up with a revised bill, or she will not move it forward.

Update of Telehealth Survey: Ms. Kellbach updated the group with the latest results from the Telehealth survey, which closed at the end of February. There were 436 total responses, 58 of which were hospitals. Her staff is analyzing the data and should have a scrubbed version available in a week or so.

Miscellaneous items:

Webinar offerings were discussed. Mr. Varghese noted that the Center for Connected Health Policy offered free webinars that can be viewed any time. Attendees discussed whether or not to have them during the monthly meetings, or at another time. The need for other topics was mentioned, such as reimbursement.

Reimbursement from OHCA (Medicaid) was discussed, with them claiming they are good with 38 codes that are not restrictive and allow for reimbursement. Ms. Forducey commented that she did not feel that was the case, and noted 2 new virtual health consultation codes since 2016.

April scheduled meeting: due to conflicts, the group agreed to move the meeting to the 1st Tuesday in April, April 4th, instead of the usual 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Telehealth Alliance of Oklahoma (TAO) Meeting Minutes
3/14/2017

Website updates: It was noted that the TAO website had not been updated in some time, and that some information on it was outdated. Josh Braziel volunteered to see if he could do those, to save the group money. Otherwise, we will have to pay the webmaster for making these changes.


Meeting adjournment: The meeting was concluded at 11:37 a.m. and a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Harrison; a second was made by Scott Bumgarner, and the motion to adjourn was approved by the group.

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

- April 4th, 2017* On site: 101 NE 51st St, Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Minutes signed by Scott Bumgarner, Secretary


Signature


Date