

## Telehealth Alliance of Oklahoma (TAO) Meeting Minutes 9/12/2017

**Attendance:** *Reji Varghese, Josh Braziel, Pam Forducey, Dawn Watson, Lane Hooton, Sandra Harrison, Derek Dobbins, Angela Surratt (remote), Candace Shaw, Randy Curry (remote), Pam Forducey, Carolina Morris (remote), Sandra Dodson (remote), Janet Wilson, Robin Moore, Brent Wilborn, Jane Kellog (remote), Marci White (remote), Shannon Tice (remote), Tim Davis (remote), Natasha Mickel.*

**Welcome/Opening Remarks:** The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Ms. Sandra Harrison. Introductions were made of those attending in person and remotely, and a quorum was present.

**Meeting minutes:** The meeting minutes from July (there was no August meeting) were presented by the secretary, Mr. Scott Bumgarner. After review, a motion to approve was made by Mr. Reji Varghese, and seconded by Ms. Pam Forducey. The motion was passed.

**Treasurer's report:** Mr. Derek Dobbins presented the treasurer's report for July and August of 2017. It was noted that a couple of new members were added, and Centene had dropped their membership. Ms. Pam Forducey noted she was inviting Innotech to be a member. A motion to approve the report was made by Mr. Lane Hooton, and seconded by Mr. Scott Bumgarner, and the motion was passed.

**Update on Oklahoma Corporation Commission task force:** Ms. Dawn Watson updated the group on the task force's first meeting. She noted the bulk of the work to date had been done by a third-party consultant. A "listening session" is planned for the near future, and Ms. Watson will notify the group when it is scheduled. She urged the group to define what our barriers are, and what direction we want to take. She suggested forming a committee to formulate a response. Some discussion ensued, and it was decided that the committee might include Mr. Brent Wilborn, Ms. Candace Shaw, Mr. Reji Varghese, Ms. Patti Davis, Mr. Josh Braziel, and Ms. Sandra Harrison.

**Legislative Outlook/Special Session:** At this point, a special session of the legislature has not been formally called by Governor Fallin. Options for replacing revenue include a cigarette tax, or tribal gaming fees. If the cigarette tax does not

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pass (currently 10 votes short), then it's anybody's guess as to what will happen. We are currently looking at a 23% cut to the entire mental health budget, as well as losing matching federal rates. This coming session will highlight more discussion about the opioid epidemic, the budget, telephonic-only provision of medicine, and Chip reauthorization (if not, rate cuts and potential loss of \$50 million). On the hospital side, the OHA Council on Policy and Legislation meets October 18<sup>th</sup> to decide on what proposals to advocate moving forward on in 2018, such as telemedicine parity.

**Board Committee Assignments:** Some changes were made to the TAO committee members for 2018: Mr. Derek Dobbins is chair of the Finance Committee; Dr. Lufkin and Ms. Sandra Dodson are added to the Resource Development Committee, and Dr. Lufkin is co-chairing the Program committee with Ms. Pam Forducey.

**Director's report:** Ms. Watson updated the board on her activities for the month. The TAO domain name was renewed, but needs an SSL certificate. Ms. Watson and Mr. Braziel will meet to discuss the best way to go about this. The fundraising company Medisoft had reached out to Ms. Watson again recently. It was decided we were not in a position financially to engage with them. Ms. Watson stated that information was given to the accountant for tax preparation. There was also discussion about getting Mr. Dobbins added to the IBC bank account.

**New Business:** Mr. Varghese mentioned that TAO members might scan the infographic previously presented by Mr. Spencer Kusi, in case there are updates or items that need to be added. It was asked if OHD can add school sites and FQHC clinics as well and Mr. Kusi replied that he thought they could. Mr. Varghese also added that someone from his office would be attending the CTel meeting in Washington, DC, in November. Ms. Watson presented a change to the TAO bylaws regarding membership, which stated that new members to TAO would require sponsorship by a member of the Board of Directors, and the request shall be presented in writing at the next regular board meeting. A motion to approve was voice by Mr. Varghese, and seconded by Ms. Forducey. The motion was passed. Finally, Ms. Natasha Mikel from the OU Provost's office was

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introduced as representing OUHSC. She stated that the HTRC grant had ended, and Oklahoma was no longer part of it.

**Educational Presentation:** Dr. Talbot “Mac” McCormick, President and CEO of Eagle Telemedicine, gave a web presentation of their Tele-stroke service line, stating that his company began providing this service to hospitals 9 years ago. Although patient acceptance of this service is around 96% good (determined by their surveys), barriers have in the past and still include cultural adoption, hospital adoption, and overall patient acceptance. Dr. McCormick gave a detailed explanation of how time is the enemy regarding treatment for stroke, noting there is a loss of 1.9 million neurons per minute in an untreated stroke, and for the brain 1 hour of this translates to 3.6 years of normal aging. The presentation also gave a detailed analysis of the return on investment for tele-stroke services, as it relates to the patient, the hospital, and the community.

**Meeting adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m. by Ms. Harrison.

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

- October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017\* On site: 101 NE 51st St, Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Minutes signed by Scott Bumgarner, Secretary



Signature



Date