

Telehealth Alliance of Oklahoma (TAO) Meeting Minutes

12/12/2017

Attendance: Sandra Harrison, Reji Varghese, Josh Braziel, Dawn Watson, Robin Moore, Janet Wilson, Derek Dobbins, Pam Forducey, Mary Daniel, Candace Shaw, Tim Davis (remote), Natasha Mikel, Brent Wilborn, Marci White (remote), Stacy Simpkins (remote), Lysa Ross, Cynthia Hilterbrand, Sandra Dobson, Molly McCool-Hare, Kyle Hurley, Andy Fosmire (remote), Carolina Morris (remote).

Welcome/Opening Remarks: The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Ms. Sandra Harrison. Introductions were made of those in attendance both in person and remotely, and a quorum was present.

Meeting minutes: The meeting minutes from November were presented by Ms. Dawn Watson. A misspelling of a name was noted. After review, a motion to approve was made by Mr. Reji Varghese, and seconded by Ms. Pam Forducey. The motion to approve was passed.

Treasurer's report: Mr. Derek Dobbins presented the treasurer's report for November 2017. Expenses and deposits were noted. A motion to approve the report was made by Dr. Janet Wilson, and seconded by Ms. Harrison, and the motion to approve was passed.

New Business:

Legislative Outlook/Special Session: The TAO Executive Director, Ms. Dawn Watson, told the group that Gov. Fallin has announced special session will begin Dec. 18 though it doesn't appear yet that an agreement has been reached. The Healthcare Authority board has voted to cut provider rates 6 percent starting January 1 and cut nursing homes 1 percent the same date. Meanwhile, bill request deadline for the 2018 session was Dec. 8 and substantial bill language is due Dec. 28. Bill introduction deadline is Jan. 18. Ms. Watson stated the likelihood is high that the legislature will face another budget hole when session begins and issues that will dominate session include the financial situation of the State Health Department and opioid prescribing practices. Ms. Harrison reminded the group that the federal government has not renewed the Children's Health Insurance Program funding. Ms. Harrison also stated that she had discussed with Rep.

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Thomsen and would discuss with Sen. Eddie Fields that there is no need to make changes to the Oklahoma Universal Service Fund.

Board Committee reports: Ms. Watson stated that the special Corporation Commission committee was still working on its report to the Second Century Corporation Commission Task Force. She mentioned that Ms. Candace Shaw had provided a good history for the document and that though the next meeting of the task force has not yet been set, it would be good to be prepared prior to the meeting should the need arise to tell the task force of the improvements that TAO and its stakeholders had made to the OUSF process. She is awaiting information from some committee members to complete the written report. Ms. Harrison stated the group does not recommend removing the OUSF from Corporation Commission oversight and that the board would see any report before it's given.

Director's report: Ms. Watson asked that board members vote upon the recommendations from Ms. Harrison and Ms. Forducey that Norman Regional Hospital and A Chance to Change become TAO members. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Wilson, and seconded by Ms. Forducey, and the motion to approve was passed. It was noted that Cynthia Hilterbrand and Lysa Ross from the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic were in attendance and that Ms. Forducey had spoken with them about membership. Ms. Watson stated that the update to the website should now be complete and that she continues to tweet and Facebook for TAO. The post with board member Dr. Ariel Lufkin's recent award was shared and retweeted several times and she encouraged board members to continue to share and retweet items. The Zoom account will automatically renew this month and Ms. Watson stated she has paid for another six months for the post office box. Ms. Watson finally noted that she was not asking that her contract for executive director duties be renewed for 2018 due to gaining more clients in her lobbying business and thanked TAO members for her year of service.

CTEL report: Board members opted to table the CTCL report due to time constraints.

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Other Business: Dr. Wilson reported that tentative plans are for OU Physicians to become OU Medicine Inc. (OUMI), a nonprofit corporation, Jan. 1, 2018, with the University of Oklahoma assuming ownership of OU Medical System's hospitals and facilities. Telehealth will be located within the clinical services and OUHSC Academic Affairs will focus on telehealth curriculum development. OUMI plans are for a building program for new sites and renovation of old sites through 2020. Ms. Sandra Dodson reported that she was seeking speakers for the Oklahoma City County Health Department's Health at Work Committee and would like TAO to come speak.

Educational Presentation: This month's educational presentation was provided by Ms. Rachel Mutrux, senior program director at the Missouri Telehealth Network. Ms. Mutrux discussed the history of the organization which started because no health care facility had enough broadband to run telehealth and internet services for the facility so the group helped put in lines and get grants for equipment. Eventually, health care sites started seeing the need for broadband and the organization became a telehealth resource center for the state. The organization has training seven or eight times a year in different areas and has state, federal and institutional funding along with memberships. Most of the funding is state funding. The organization has a staff including a full-time person on outreach and a medical director. The organization has seen good outcomes from education programs. For example, an asthma ECHO is showing a reduction in costs of \$4 million due to the reduction in emergency room visits and hospital stays. Another program has trained providers in treating Hepatitis C and yet another has trained providers to certified to diagnose autism allowing families to get coverage. Ms. Mutrux said that the organization is working to publish the outcomes and Ms. Harrison noted that there is a nationwide effort to show telehealth saves money and that not enough data exists.

Executive session: Ms. Harrison made a call for executive session at 11:15 and the board went into executive session. When the TAO Board came out of Executive Session a motion was made by Ms. Forducey and seconded by Mr. Varghese to (1) hire Ms. Candace Shaw as the Interim Executive Director of TAO effective January 1, 2018, at a rate of \$2,500 a month with a contract to be signed by Ms. Harrison

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and (2) to include Candace Shaw on the IBC Signature Bank Card and remove Dawn Watson, previous Executive Director. The motion to approve was passed. The Board discussed that as of the December meeting Mr. Scott Bumgarner will remain on the signature card at IBC Bank and as Secretary of the Board until we can have further discussion with Mr. Bumgarner about his membership in TAO.

Meeting adjournment: The meeting was then adjourned.

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

- January 9, 2018, On site: 101 NE 51st St, Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Minutes signed by Sandra Harrison, Chair


Signature


Date