

## Telehealth Alliance of Oklahoma (TAO) Meeting Minutes 1/12/2016

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**Attendance:** *Scott Bumgarner, Cynthia Scheideman-Miller, Lane Hooton, Marci White, Sandra Harrison, Anne Roberts, Reji Varghese, Josh Braziel, Robin Wilson, Janet Wilson, Debbi Sovereign, Steve Casady (remote), Robert Coffey, and Jane Kellogg.*

**Welcome/Opening Remarks** – Meeting began at 10:03 AM. Vice Chair Mr. Lane Hooton welcomed all in attendance.

**Review of minutes:** Minutes from the November 2015 meeting were presented. Minutes were reviewed by all, Mr. Varghese made a motion to approve, Mr. Hooton seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer Report:** Treasurer reports for October, November and December were presented. The balance at the end of December was \$34,252.82. Some of the expenses included American Telemedicine Association fees, not-for-profit fees, Center for Non-profits fees, and fees for tax work. Mr. Dobbins made a motion to approve the report, and Mr. Varghese seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business Report:** A brief history of Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) movement concerning Oklahoma Universal Services Funds (OUSF) was presented. The recent Notice of Inquiry (NOI) was closed out without any action by OCC. Rep. Thompson wants to convene all interested parties again to gain more information before submitting OUSF legislation, ideally before February 1<sup>st</sup> when legislature back in session.

**Legislative update:** SB 985, by Sen. Eddie Fields, removes language that prohibits reimbursement from the Universal Service Fund being made for an Internet subscriber fee or charges incurred as a result of services accessed via the Internet. The group was updated on the bill for repeal/amendment of informed consent bill as it relates to language for telemedicine. Ms. Scheideman-Miller will send out information to TAO board members. There also was discussion about Optometrist association probably filing a bill, due to their growing interested in telemedicine. The group was updated group on inpatient patient telepsychiatry changes, discussions of codes, and financial impact.

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**New Business:** Mr. Robert Coffey, President of the Oklahoma Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society informed the group about HIMSS, its membership, and suggested the possibility of working together to produce a joint conference or workshop. There was interest in continuing discussions.

**Conference Clinical Pearls:** The Center for Telehealth and eHealth Law (CTEL) conference was in November 2015 in Washington, DC. Topics included the Texas Medical Board defending their position on telemedicine, The Federal Trade Commission speaking on state medical boards needing to do more to improve access to care, the FDA/FDC working together to investigate medical devices/practices that look shady, nursing organizations discussed the advancing employer-based telehealth services that use LPN's, they feel it is outside of their normal scope of practice. Other topics presented at CTCL included utilizing rural health EMS service as hot spots, and the "Uberization of healthcare."

The Gerontological Society of America's annual conference, which was very international in its makeup, had a technology track this year which was well attended. The importance of this conference is the impact a larger, growing segment of older citizens makes on our healthcare services. Consumer demand is driving telehealth, as is research. One example of research was on how older people will utilize technology in their vehicles, and that information was given to car manufacturers who use the research findings as part of training their salesforce.

**Telehealth Reimbursement:** An update on insurer HealthChoice's decision to pay for e-mail "visits" was given. There is no limit to the number of e-mails in a coverage period, the email visits do not count towards the number of in-person visits per coverage period, the codes do not specify any particular type of provider that may provide this service, and the patient can be out-of-state and still utilize the service. Medicaid will now pay for certain e-mail communications, but will only reimburse for a single e-mail per patient per 24 hour period (\$45), and only 4 e-mails per patient per provider per year, and they must be pre-existing patients.

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Discussion of TAO sharing costs for a booth again at Explore Oklahoma Healthcare Summit this year. A motion to purchase was approved by Mr. Hooton, and seconded by Mr. Bumgarner. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Hooton at 11:45 AM, and was approved by Mr. Josh Braziel, and seconded by Ms. Harrison. Motion passed unanimously.

*Upcoming TAO meetings at ODMHSAS Conference Room from 10:00 to noon:*

- February 9th, 2016\* On site: 1200 N.E. 13<sup>th</sup> St. , Oklahoma City, OK

Minutes signed by Scott Bumgarner, Secretary

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Signature

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Date