

# Telehealth Alliance of Oklahoma (TAO) Meeting Minutes

## 7/14/2020

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**In Attendance: All Virtual:** Candace Shaw, Tim Davis, Sandra Harrison, Reji Varghese, Molly McCool Hare, Randy Curry, Mary Daniel, Emily Sederstrom, Shar Doodoo, Stacie McLaughlin, Ariel Lufkin, Shannon Tice, Bryce Ell, Carolina Morris, David Harris & Tom Cassidy, Robert Dorrell, Todd Hoffman, Eugenia Brown.

**Welcome/Opening Remarks:** The meeting was on-line only and called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Ms. Sandra Harrison, introductions were completed and BCBS of Oklahoma was announced as a new member.

**Meeting minutes:** The meeting minutes were reviewed from June. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Candace Shaw and seconded by Dr. Ariel Lufkin were passed, and minutes approved.

**Treasurer's report:** The treasurer's report from June was presented by Ms. Shaw, who gave a brief explanation of the details; three outgoing payments, no memberships or income received. Membership renewals have gone out for July. Ms. Shaw re-presented the numbers at the end of the meeting. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Reji Varghese, and seconded by Dr. Ariel Lufkin. The motion was passed, and treasurer's report approved.

**Legislative update:** Ms. Sandra Harrison shared the Oklahoma Health Care Authority's 2020 Telehealth Summary, which highlighted the use of telehealth by Medicaid members. Ms. Harrison gave a regulatory update. The Hospital Association met with the OHA Director. The OHA Director commented on their desire to continue to expand telehealth, and they will tie the decision to extend expanded telehealth coverage based on the Government's decision to renew the Presidential Executive Order. Dr. Lufkin and Ms. Harrison discussed whether a centralized repository exists to keep track of what commercial payers will be doing in extending coverage. It was determined no repository exists. Mr. Todd Hoffman commented that BCBS OK has extended coverage to August 31<sup>st</sup>, and will continue to update month to month.

Ms. Shannon Tice gave a Federal regulatory update. USAC application window has opened as of July 1<sup>st</sup> for submitting proposals for new services. The funding request window opens on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and closes April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. The FCC

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Telehealth Grant closed as of July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Oklahoma had a couple of funding awardees, including Norman Regional and Duncan Regional Hospitals. Ms. Tice spoke on a recent federal bill by Senator Klobuchar, Accessible Affordable Internet for All Act, which aims to expand the FCC's Rural Health Care program in urban and rural areas.

**Board Committee Report:** Ms. Candace Shaw stated no current board committee action at this time.

**Presentation:** Mr. Tom Cassidy with Integris Health gave an education presentation on CMS Recommended State Policy Changes for State's Medicaid and CHIP programs. CMS themes from the Telehealth toolkit included similarity with private insurance, removing red tape, and increasing access. CMS technical advice included ensuring Medicaid Managed Care cover the same telehealth services as Medicaid Fee-for-Service. CMS indicated in the toolkit that federal approval will not be needed in a State Plan Amendment for many circumstances. Mr. Tom Cassidy will send out the presentation and the CMS toolkit.

**Director's report:** Mr. Tim Davis gave a membership update. SSM St. Anthony has suspended memberships until December 2020. Mr. Davis is working with OSU OKC's campus to identify a new meeting space. Mr. Davis reminded the group there will be no meeting in August, and the next meeting will be September 8<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Harrison asked the clinical members to advise on having an in person meeting in September. Dr. Lufkin recommended the September meeting be done by Zoom and reassess at the time for future meetings. Mr. Davis discussed Dr. Mark Woodring's had inquired about Medicaid expansion. Ms. Harrison responded, sharing the OHA is starting with the SB 1046 funding mechanism.

**Other Business:** Mr. Reji Varghese gave an update on the recent Amendment to Executive Order 2020-20. The latest amendment added Section 7.a-d which allows the Medical Board, DO Board, and Nursing Board to issue out-of-state, critical need, temporary licenses to their licensees. This section was included in the original COVID Executive Order, and was removed when Executive Order 2020-20 was originally executed. The amendment brings this section back. Mr. Varghese discussed the license ramifications that occurred due to Section 7's

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removal and reinstatement; including over 1300 out-of-state temporary licenses being discontinued. Future plans are being discussed on what to do with the provider licenses now that the section has been added back.

Ms. Candace Shaw presented on her recent meeting with the OK State Senate Diabetes Caucus. Topics included an overview on how Oklahoma ranks on legal and regulatory matters, continued barriers, partnering opportunities, funding opportunities, and potential resources available. Ms. Shaw shared Senator Simpson's three requests for TAO, which included:

1) Are there additional language clarification needed on SB 726? Ms. Harrison clarified SB 726 discussed the establishment of the face-face patient relationship. Dr. Lufkin brought up concerns on the language in SB 726 related qualifying telehealth platforms, and its favorableness to a specific vendor.

2) Are there changes that need to be put in State statutes, addressing licensure including MD, DO, and other profession licensing boards, to acknowledge telehealth?

3) Would TAO be willing to visit with Commissioner Frye to discuss reactivating the Telehealth Department in the State Department of Health? Ms. Harrison and Mr. Davis discussed former legislation that came through this year that would have moved the Telehealth Department to OSU's campus. No clear plan for this has been determined.

Mr. Varghese gave an update on his transition plans. He will be serving with TAO till the end of September, and may be extended to the end of October. Lyle, from the Oklahoma Medical Board, will be joining future meetings.

Ms. Shaw put forth the motion to the Board, to remove Mr. Regi Varghese and Mr. Scott Bumgarner's names from the bank account and signature card, and replace with Dr. Ariel Lufkin and Ms. Emily Sederstrom, incoming treasurer and secretary, respectively. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Shaw, and seconded by Mr. Varghese. The motion was passed, and adopted.

**Meeting adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

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*Upcoming TAO meetings conducted virtually from 10:00 to noon:*

- September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - Virtual

Minutes signed by Tim Davis, Executive Director

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Signature

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Date

DRAFT