

Telehealth Alliance of Oklahoma (TAO) Meeting Minutes

3/10/2020

In Attendance: Candace Shaw, Tim Davis, Sandra Harrison, Reji Varghese, Nate Draper, Molly McCool Hare, Mark Woodring, Scott Bumgarner, Verna Foust, Carolina Morris (remote), Dr. Scott Bernard (remote), and David Harris.

Welcome/Opening Remarks: The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Ms. Sandra Harrison, roll was taken and introductions were completed.

Meeting minutes: The meeting minutes were reviewed from February. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Candace Shaw, and seconded by Mr. Reji Varghese. The motions were passed, and minutes approved.

Treasurer's report: The treasurer's report from February was presented by Ms. Shaw, who gave a brief explanation of the details and noting 3 past due memberships. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Scott Bumgarner, and a second by Mr. Varghese, and the report was approved.

Legislative update: Ms. Sandra Harrison gave the legislative update, using the OHA teletracking report that was distributed electronically as well as on paper. Ms. Harrison briefly touched on the following bills, HB3729 by Philips, about a the definition of broadband, HB4018 on rural broadband expansion and establishment of a council to provide recommendations (TAO should be involved), HB4064 by McCortney on consolidating DMHSAS into OHCA, SB1201 by McCortney on statewide HIE, SB1208 by Bergstrom on who can do mental health assessments—OHA wants changes, bill needs more work; SB1606 by Bullard on transportation of mental health patients—bill needs more work; SB1891 by Pugh on universal occupation licensing reciprocity, which would have us accept licensing by other state—OHA opposing in this form.

Ms. Harrison also noted in other regulatory updates that the governor was still looking at a negotiated deal for Medicaid, but it was still up in the air, and that the CTeL board, of which she is a part of, had sent a letter to the Trump administration voicing their concerns with the media carrying misinformation regarding telemedicine and COVID 19. Mr. Varghese also added that the Oklahoma State Medical Board of Licensure and Supervision supported a change

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in SB195, changing the word “supervision” to collaboration” which would permit better billing and coding for physician assistants.

Educational Presentation: The presentation was given by Dr. Scott Bernard, CEO of e-Psychiatry, based in Hartford, CT, since 2007. He mentioned that they had been in Oklahoma around 10 years, working with FQHCs. He gave a background on the needs around mental health, stating OK, NM, AL, and SD have the greatest needs and worst access to help, and the supply and demand gap is growing. E-psychiatry uses a different approach to an old problem, employing AI and predictive analytics to intervene, and to how traditional approaches of health plans trying to drive patients to providers does not work anymore, there are other avenues of engagement. They utilize remote patient monitoring, and multiple applications for patients to engage at their level of comfort, to participate in their treatment decisions, to measure progress, and to create and stay connected to their own social network, who they can turn to first for help. Dr. Bernard’s presentation was very informative and applicable to many situations for which TAO members are seeking solutions.

Director’s report: Mr. Tim Davis mentioned that he attended the Oklahoma Rural Health Conference, and noted Ms. Tiffany Griffis with the Eastern Oklahoma Medical Center in Poteau received an award! Ms. Griffis has been instrumental in developing and maintaining the telehealth program in her organization which reaches both schools and clinics in her area, and in working with TAO has influence policy to help her patients and families! Kudos for her for walking the talk!

Other Business: Ms. Shaw mentioned the previous discussion about the Blue Cirrus group doing a hands-on workshop—it was decided that would be pursued further in the summer.

Meeting adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

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

- April 14th, 2020 On site: 101 NE 51st St, Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Minutes signed by Scott Bumgarner, Secretary

Signature

Date

DRAFT