

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Rural Maryland Council (RMC) Health Care Committee

Tuesday, June 2, 2015, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Via Conference Call

Present:

Mr. Thomas McLoughlin, RMC Health Care Committee Chair

Ms. Charlotte Davis, Executive Director, Rural Maryland Council

Dr. Karan Kverno, Ph.D., PMHCNS-BC, PMHNP-BC, Assistant Professor, PMHNP Program, Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing

Dr. Kerry Palakanis, Owner and CEO, Crisfield Clinic Family Practice

Ms. Lylie Hinh, Assistant to Dr. Palakanis, Crisfield Clinic Family Practice

Dr. David Pruitt, Director, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Director of Telemental Health for the Department of Psychiatry, University of Maryland School of Medicine,

Dr. H. Neal Reynolds, M.D., Associate Professor, University of Maryland School of Medicine

Ms. Sharon Praissman, MS, CRNP-A/PMH, Clinical Director, Psychiatric Outpatient Program for Adults, Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing

Dr. Nancy M. Smith, DNP, CRNP, FNP-BC, Assistant Professor, Nursing Department, PRMC/Salisbury University

Ms. Deborah L. Wolf, MS, Director, Atlantic Health Center, Atlantic General Hospital

RMC Staff:

Kathy Vernacchio

Call to Order

The Committee meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed the participants and thanked everyone who was able to join the call.

Minutes

The minutes of the March 25, 2015 meeting were previously distributed to all Committee members. The Chair asked if there were any questions on the content, comments, or corrections. There being none and upon motion properly made and seconded, it was voted to accept the minutes as submitted.

Review and Discussion of Priorities

At the March 25, 2015 meeting, members were asked to select one but not more than two priorities from MHCC's Task Force recommendations and submit that information to the RMC for discussion at today's meeting.

Approximately eight members forwarded their suggestions totaling ten priority items. Four responses identified school-based programs, community sites received two votes, and the monitoring, proctoring and mentoring of health care practitioners received two votes. Other comments considered as high priority were the use of telehealth for prevention quality indicators, and its use in emergency rooms.

During the discussion that ensued, much of the focus was on the need for school and community center based programs. Many of the comments related to the importance of psychiatric medicine in telehealth as well as the role of the psychiatrically trained nurse practitioner in addressing the issue of behavioral health especially in the rural communities.

Committee members also included comments on their experiences with current tele-behavioral health initiatives underway and efforts in collaborating with other organizations in the field.

Committee's Role in Advocacy for Telemedicine

Based on the discussion under the previous agenda item, it was suggested that the Committee might benefit from a guest speaker being invited to a future meeting. Members who attended a Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center (MATRC) Summit meeting in March indicated that the topic of telepsychiatry was not only on that formal program but was also represented among the exhibits at the site. Consequently, it was the Committee's consensus that a representative from one of the exhibitors in that forum be approached for a presentation on telemental health delivery models at an upcoming meeting.

Next Meeting

RMC will attempt to secure a guest speaker for the next meeting tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, July 7, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. Its format will be determined by the availability of the members for a face-to-face meeting or conference call.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought forward, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Vernacchio