

Minutes

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

Tuesday, July 7, 2015, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Maryland Department of Agriculture

50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Present:

Mr. Thomas McLoughlin, RMC Health Care Committee Chair

Ms. Michelle Clark, Executive Director, Maryland Rural Health Association

Ms. Charlotte Davis, Executive Director, Rural Maryland Council

Mr. Michael Franklin, FACHE, President and CEO, Atlantic General Hospital

Ms. Roxanne Hale, Director, Office of Primary Care Access, Health Systems and Infrastructure Administration, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Ms. Holly Ireland, Executive Director, Mid-Shore Mental Health Systems, Inc.

Mr. John Kornak, Director of Telehealth, University of Maryland Medical Center

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

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

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

Dr. P. David Sharp, Ph.D., Chair, Technology Solutions & Standards Advisory Group, Maryland Health Care Commission

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

Ms. Teresa Zent, J.D., Attorney

RMC Staff:

Kathy Vernacchio

Call to Order

The Committee meeting was called to order at 1:41 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed the participants and thanked the members for their attendance and continued interest in the committee's activities. He introduced Dr. Tarik Shaheen, Child Psychiatrist and Founder of Iris Telehealth and provided a brief introduction of his background. At the Chair's request, each member introduced him/herself to Dr. Shaheen and offered a brief summary of their involvement in the health field.

Tarik Shaheen M.D. Presentation

Dr. Shaheen focused his comments on the health care needs for telementalhealth , particularly in rural areas. He discussed the impact of technology, organizational strategy, operational planning and patient sensitivity in developing and sustaining a successful program. He also touched on potential barriers encountered such as but not limited to reimbursement, clinical and administrative acceptance, frequency of regulatory changes, and the perception that it is not a cost effective solution. He concluded his remarks reflecting on the rapid growth in telemedicine, its increasing recognition as a critical clinical tool for improving access to health care and its importance to patients, especially in rural communities.

Open Discussion

During the discussion that followed, Dr. Shaheen responded to comments/questions related to advocacy roles, telehealth curriculum in medical schools, adequacy of reimbursement for mental health, telehealth's applicability to both urban and rural areas and many other clinical, operational and policy development issues.

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking Dr. Shaheen for his presentation, the enlightening information he shared , and his candid observations based on his practice experience. The Chair also requested that the members reflect on today's presentation and relate it to Ms. Davis' White Paper which will be discussed at the next meeting in greater detail as the committee attempts to contemplate a meaningful role for the RMC in moving the conversation of telepsychiatry forward.

Minutes

The minutes of the June 2, 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 no modifications noted, and upon motion properly made and seconded, the minutes were accepted as submitted.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2015. Based on the responses received to the Chair's request a determination will be made as to the type of meeting (face to face vs. conference call).

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought forward, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen Vernacchio