

## **Minutes**

Regular Meeting of the Rural Maryland Council (RMC) Health Care Committee  
Tuesday, August 4, 2015, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
*Conference Call*

### **Present:**

Mr. Thomas McLoughlin, RMC Health Care Committee Chair  
Ms. Charlotte Davis, Executive Director, Rural Maryland Council  
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. 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. Diana Abney, Health Officer, Charles County Department of Health  
Dr. Kerry Palakanis, CRNP, CEO, Crisfield Clinic Family Practice  
Mr. Josh Hastings, RMC Legislative Chair  
Dr. Nancy M. Smith, DNP, CRNP, FNP-BC, Assistant Professor, Nursing Department, PRMC/Salisbury University

### **1. Convene Meeting**

The meeting was convened at approximately 1:05 pm.

### **2. Minutes of July 7, 2015**

The Chair apologized for the delay in forwarding the minutes of the July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes to committee members. It was mentioned that the minutes will be sent shortly for review and action at the next regular meeting.

### **3. RMC White Paper**

The RMC Executive Director presented the draft RMC white paper for discussion. Also the Chair of the RMC Legislative Committee summarized its activities during the past session and outlined its responsibilities, including the process observed in developing its list of legislative priorities and creating a bill tracking sheet. During the discussion that followed, there were questions related to the possibility of Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund revenue for Fiscal Year 2017, the review process involved in the grants awarded by the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund and the experience of the RMC with its partners, the Maryland Rural Health Association and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in conducting the Round Table discussions on Telemedicine. are currently being notified.

#### **4. Open Discussion Dr. Shaheen's Presentation**

Several observations were offered regarding the preceding discussion and a review of Dr. Tareek Shaheen's remarks at the July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Among them were the feasibility of hosting three pilot telemedicine sites to identify mechanisms to make telemedicine more functional, Medicaid payment issues, the challenges raised regarding certification and reciprocity and the matter of coverage for behavioral health by private insurers. It was suggested that speakers on the various topics mentioned be invited to future meetings of the committee.

#### **5. Future Topics for Committee Review**

It was reported that the Center for Remote Health has recently released its compilation of the telehealth laws for each of the 50 states. However, members have not yet been able to review the material. Among the topics suggested for committee review were the need for a reasonable reimbursement program, increased focus on school based delivery demonstrating its cost effectiveness, the feasibility of creating a non profit Telemedicine organization and the possibility of developing a coalition that is focused on expanding access to behavioral health via telemedicine with potential membership broadened to include non health related organizations such as local community foundations and businesses. Also mentioned was a strengthening of the working relationship with the Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center.

#### **6. Other Business**

Ms. Davis reported that a workshop on the future of Teletherapy has been assembled by Delegate Kirill Reznik. Its first meeting occurred on July 27<sup>th</sup> for a brief overview of the need and activities to date. Its next meeting is scheduled for August 31st.

After further discussion, Committee members were asked to reflect on the subject matter of today's meeting and to submit their comments and specific recommendations to the Chair for more detailed consideration at future meetings.

#### **7. Next Meeting**

In view of the proximity of the next meeting date to the Labor Day Weekend, there was discussion as to whether the next meeting on Tuesday September 1st should be canceled. After discussion, it was concluded that a decision will be made and communicated to the members no later than a week before the scheduled meeting.

#### **8. Adjournment**

There being no further business to be brought to the committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:55 pm.