

RMC Health Care Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 3, 2015
Via Conference Call
Minutes

Participants:

Mr. Thomas McLoughlin, RMC Health Care Committee Chair
Dr. Diana Abney, Health Officer, Charles County Department of Health
Dr. Karan Kverno, Ph.D., PMHCNS-BC, PMHNP-BC, Assistant Professor, PMHNP Program, Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing
Ms. Roxanne Hale, Director, Office of Primary Care Access, Health Systems and Infrastructure Administration, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Mr. John Kornak, Director, Telehealth, University of Maryland Medical Center
Dr. Kerry Palakanis, Owner and CEO, Crisfield Clinic Family Practice
Ms. Sharon Praissman, 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
Ms. Lara Wilson, Executive Director, Maryland Rural Health Association
Attorney Teresa Zent, J.D.

RMC Staff:

Charlotte Davis, Executive Director
Kathy Vernacchio, Administrative Assistant

1. Convene Meeting

The meeting was convened at approximately 1:05 p.m.

2. Action on Minutes

The minutes of the October 6, 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.

3. Telehealth Program Updates

Based on last month's discussion, additional perspectives were sought on the question of funding for telemedicine projects for primary/mental health. Among the examples identified were ECHO and ACT, programs jointly funded by government and nonprofit foundations as well as state programs designed to encourage preceptor involvement in medical education such as Georgia and one currently being discussed in Maryland. Also mentioned was Care First's offer to provide \$3,000,000 in grants over one to three years for telemedicine projects that involve interactive video conferencing or remote patient

monitoring. However, that window of opportunity closes on November 23, 2015. On the other hand, while there is a recognition of need, it may be premature to anticipate participation in such funding from the new approach to hospital reimbursement in this State at this time. There followed extended discussion on the significant challenges represented by inadequate reimbursement for services. Consequently, it was suggested that the subject could be raised for further discussion with Deputy Secretary McMahon in the December meeting.

4. Adolescent Depression Draft Paper

The Chair summarized the draft material on Adolescent Depression previously distributed to the Committee. Highlighted were the following proposed, short-term objectives:

- Encourage all primary physicians to include an evaluation for depression in their private office visits.
- Review and revise roles of School Nurse and Counselor to assist in detecting signs of depression for possible medical attention.
- Develop certification programs in mental health to further enhance ADP's qualifications and offset the recognized physician shortage in addressing and treating or referring adolescents suffering from depression.

In the discussion that followed, it was also mentioned that the draft was shared with the MATRC and its concept outlined in an informal discussion with a State official. Some programs and pilot studies that are currently exploring telemental health as well as school-based delivery were identified. Also mentioned were the loan repayment programs and their potential impact on practitioner recruitment in rural areas, especially nurse practitioners.

The members present accepted the short term objectives of the draft as the principal focus of its deliberations over the next twelve months and offered input on the areas to be included in the draft. Among them were the investigation of the role of telemedicine in this process and available technologies for education and remote patient monitoring, the recognition of anxiety in view of its similarity with depression, and the linkage of primary care with the schools.

In concluding the discussion, it was suggested that the committee consider as its goal the establishment of a model for the first telemental health program for school-based populations in the area. To advance this discussion to the next step in accomplishing this goal, the members were asked to submit their thoughts and suggestions so that they can be assembled and brought to the next regular meeting for further discussion and development.

6. Other Business

The Committee discussed the feasibility of video conferencing for future meetings as proposed and offered by John Kornak to provide remote access to these discussions. His offer was graciously accepted with appreciation and he will be working with RMC Staff to establish the necessary arrangements for future meetings. It was mentioned that the mechanism is designed to recognize the travel distances involved for all members but with the hope that it will be used appropriately when a request is made for the physical presence of committee members.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting was originally scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, 2015. However, guest speaker, Shannon McMahon, Deputy Secretary for Health Care Financing, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, had a change in her schedule. The RMC Staff will generate a Doodle Poll to determine member availability for another date.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought to the committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:41 pm.