



# Idaho Telehealth Council

## Meeting Minutes:

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**Subject:** Idaho Telehealth Council                      **DATE:** September 11, 2015

**LOCATION:** 450 W State St, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 10A Boise, Idaho 83702

**Attendees:** Stacey Carson, Telehealth Council Chairman – Idaho Hospital Association  
Bill Hazle, MD – Stargazers, LLC  
Kathy McGill – Department of Insurance  
Casey Meza – Kootenai Health  
Michael Meza, MD – Kootenai Health  
David Morledge, PhD – Neurostatus, LLC  
Ken Schaecher, MD – Select Health  
Tracey Sessions – Idaho State Hospital South  
Mary Sheridan – IDHW Division of Public Health  
Molly Steckel – Idaho Medical Association  
Mitch Toryanski – Bureau of Occupational Licenses  
Tiffany Whitmore Seibert – Saint Alphonsus Health System  
Matt Wimmer – IDHW Division of Medicaid

**Teleconference:** Jill Alessi – Pacific Source  
Melissa Christian – Regence BlueShield  
Rick Goodwin, MS – Eastern Idaho RMC

**Members Absent:** Susan Ault – Idaho Primary Care Association  
Marc Chasin, MD – St. Luke’s Health System  
Becky diVittorio – OptumHealth  
William Ganz, MD – Idaho Board of Medicine  
Anne Lawler – Idaho Board of Medicine  
Paul McPherson, MD – St. Luke’s Children’s Hospital  
Rhonda Robinson Beale, MD – Blue Cross of Idaho

**DHW Staff:** Cynthia York, Administrator – Office of Healthcare Policy Initiatives  
Kim Thurston, Administrative Assistant – Office of Healthcare Policy Initiatives  
Kate Creswell, Project Coordinator – Office of Healthcare Policy Initiatives

**Staff Teleconference:** Casey Moyer, Operations Manager – Office of Healthcare Policy Initiatives

**Guests:** Jenni Blendu, RN – Agate Health Solutions  
Sandra Evans, MAED, RN – Idaho Board of Nursing  
Rex Force, Pharm.D – Idaho State University  
Elwood Kleaver – Conex  
Joe McCollum, Jr. – Hawley Troxell (Idaho Hospital Association)  
Lynsey Winters-Juel – Idaho Telehealth Alliance

**STATUS:** Approved 10/16/15

## Summary of Motions/Decisions:

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**Motion:**

Molly Steckel moved to approve the Idaho Telehealth Council (ITC) meeting minutes from the August 14, 2015, meeting.

**Outcome:**

Michael Meza, MD seconded the motion.

Motion Carried.

Tracey Sessions made a motion to recommend H.R. 2948 to the Idaho State Legislature and request a co-sponsor from Representatives Simpson and Labrador.

Mary Sheridan seconded the motion.

Motion Carried.

## Agenda Topics:

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### Welcome and Introductions – Stacey Carson, Telehealth Council Chair

- Chair Stacey Carson introduced ITC's newest member, Jill Alessi, Director of Health Services, PacificSource.
- Council members and guests provided brief introductions

### Introduction of New Project Coordinator

- Chair Stacey Carson introduced Kate Creswell, Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), as the new project coordinator.
  - Kate provided a brief summary of her educational and professional experience.

### Introduction to Nurse Licensure Compacts (Concerning Telemedicine): Attachment 1

- Sandra Evans, MAEd, RN, Idaho Board of Nursing Executive Director, provided an overview of Idaho's existing Nurse Licensure Compact, which allows nurses who reside in and hold a license in Idaho to practice nursing in the 23 other compact states, without holding additional licenses. A separate compact for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) has also been approved to allow advanced practice registered nurses to hold one multistate license with a privilege to practice in other compact states. In 2016, the Idaho Board of Nursing plans to recommend replacement of the existing NLC with the enhanced NLC and adoption of the APRN compact to the Idaho State Legislature.

### Idaho Telehealth Subcommittee Overview and Updates

- Reimbursement Subcommittee (Goal 1):
  - The first reimbursement subcommittee, co-chaired by Dr. Schaecher and Tracey Sessions, was held September 10, 2015. Meetings will be held bi-monthly, with exact dates and times to be determined. The goal of this subcommittee is to expedite the process of identifying key issues and to offer recommendations to the council for endorsement.
  - Several key themes were identified:
    1. Payment parity or non-parity. – primary issue
    2. Patient identification and verification of benefits.
    3. Types of services eligible for telehealth reimbursement.
    4. Areas people are comfortable paying for.
    5. Location and the concern that a lack of geographical guidelines could allow for misuse.
  - Project Coordinator, Kate, will collect and synthesize data for the workgroup to review.
    1. Data from several states with existing parity laws will be reviewed to determine the impact of parity laws, as well as to identify the reasons that states moved to parity legislation.
- SHIP Subcommittee (Goal 2):
  - Chair Mary Sheridan provided a brief overview of the SHIP subcommittee which is focused around SHIP, particularly specialty services and rural areas.

- This is the planning year for SHIP and Mary would like to assemble a plan that is ready for implementation in February 2016.
  1. Approval was obtained for Marsha Bracke, Bracke & Associates, Inc., to facilitate a one day planning meeting.
  2. Two potential November dates are being considered and will be sent out to the group.
  3. In-person attendance is strongly encouraged.
  4. Travel reimbursement is available.
  5. A one hour kick-off call will be scheduled to discuss this planning meeting.
- A charter will need to be completed for ITC's goal 2.
  1. Mary will assemble a small group to draft the charter and email to the council for approval.

### **Idaho Telepharmacy: Attachment 2**

- Rex Force, PharmD, Associate Dean for Clinical Research at Idaho State University's Division of Health Science presented and provided an Idaho Telepharmacy update to the council.
  - ISU's Bengal Pharmacy program provides full-service telepharmacy to rural communities in Idaho.
  - Telepharmacy facilities are currently located in Arco and Challis, and are supervised by ISU's Pocatello Pharmacy.
  - The Idaho Board of Pharmacy has specific requirements for Bengal Pharmacy, such as additional monitoring of controlled substances through increased auditing and screening, heightened security, and lower ratios of technicians to pharmacists.
  - Bengal Pharmacy provides students with rural health care experience including six paid pharmacy internship positions, twelve pharmacy clerkships, 3 pharmacy residents, MBA internships, and career path interns.
    1. Funded by the ISU foundation, no state-appropriated monies or student fees used.
  - Bengal Pharmacy also acts as an important safety net for rural communities and enhances the viability of rural clinics and hospitals.

### **Medicare Telehealth Parity Act of 2015 – Division of Licensing and Certification Update: Attachment 3**

- Chair Stacey Carson discussed the Medicare Telehealth Parity Act of 2015, introduced in July to expand specific telehealth services under Medicare by improving access to care, removing geographical barriers, expanding eligible providers and access to telestroke services, and by allowing the beneficiary's home to be the originating site.
- The treatment of rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) is a key clause, which authorizes rural health clinics and FQHCs to serve as distant sites for the provision of telehealth services.
- Tracey Sessions made a motion to recommend H.R. 2948 to the Idaho State Legislature and request a co-sponsor from Representatives Simpson and Labrador.
  - Mary Sheridan seconded the motion.
  - Chair Stacey Carson will draft letters of support to Representatives Labrador and Simpson.
- Chair Stacey Carson asked members to be mindful of the Division of Licensing and Certification and to point where ambiguity that could result in different interpretations of regulations may exist with the Division of Licensing and Certification so that the Council can seek clarity.

### **SHIP Update**

- Cynthia York, Administrator, Office of Healthcare Policy Initiatives, announced that the SHIP website is up and running.
- Applications of Interest, available to all practices interested in joining SHIP, were physically mailed to over 500 Idaho practices and emailed to over 300 clinics. These applications will help identify interested practices and gauge their level of interest.
  - Individuals who participated in the pilot do not need to submit an application of interest.
- The next step is to review the applications.
- SHIP and the Idaho Medical NOME Collaborative will determine the criteria necessary to qualify for the first cohort of 55 PCMHs.

### **Next Steps**

- Next meetings are scheduled for October 16, 2015, November 13, 2015, and December 11, 2015.

There being no further business Chairman Carson adjourned the meeting at 12:35 pm.

DRAFT