



Idaho Telehealth Council

Meeting Minutes:

Subject: Idaho Telehealth Council **DATE:** November 13, 2015

Location: 450 W State St, 10th Floor, Room 10A Boise, Idaho 83702

Attendees: Stacey Carson, Telehealth Council Chairman – Idaho Hospital Association
Jill Alessi – Pacific Source
Susan Ault – Idaho Primary Care Association
Melissa Christian – Regence BlueShield
Bill Hazle, MD – Stargazers, LLC
Kathy McGill – Department of Insurance
Stephanie Sayegh – IDHW Division of Public Health
Molly Steckel – Idaho Medical Association
Mitch Toryanski – Bureau of Occupational Licenses
Matt Wimmer – IDHW Division of Medicaid

Teleconference: David Morledge, PhD – Neurostatus, LLC
Marc Chasin, MD – St. Luke’s Health System
Rick Goodwin, MS – Eastern Idaho RMC
Casey Meza – Kootenai Health
Tracey Sessions – Idaho State Hospital South
Tiffany Whitmore Seibert – Saint Alphonsus Health System

Members Absent: 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
Michael Meza, MD – Kootenai Health
Rhonda Robinson Beale, MD – Blue Cross of Idaho
Ken Schaecher, MD – Select Health

DHW Staff: Cynthia York, Administrator – Office of Healthcare Policy Initiatives
Kate Creswell, Project Coordinator – Office of Healthcare Policy Initiatives

Guests: Miro Barac – IDHW Division of Public Health
Elwood Kleaver – Conex
Debbie Ransom – IDHW Division of Licensing and Certification

STATUS: Approved 12/11/15

Summary of Motions/Decisions:

Motion:

Bill Hazle, MD moved to approve the Idaho Telehealth Council (ITC) meeting minutes from the October 16, 2015 meeting.

Susan Ault seconded the motion.

Rick Goodwin moved to vote on whether or not to send a letter to Congressmen Simpson and Labrador, and if so, to then debate the language of the letter.

Molly Steckel seconded the motion.

The Council voted to send a letter to Congressmen Simpson and Labrador.

Mitch Toryanski made a motion to send the revised October 29th letter draft letter with Melissa Christian's revisions.

Melissa Christian seconded the motion.

Molly Steckel made a **substitute motion** to send the original September 24th letter with the revision to replace the word critical in the fourth line of paragraph two to important.

Tracey Sessions seconded the motion

Outcome:

Motion Carried.

Motion Carried.

Substitute Motion Introduced – No Vote.

Motion Carried.

Agenda Topics:

Welcome and Roll Call – Stacey Carson, Telehealth Council Chair

- Council members and guests provided brief introductions.
- Stacey Carson, Telehealth Council Chair, announced that a change was made to the order of the agenda items and the subcommittees would present prior to discussion of the letters to congressmen.

Approve Minutes – Stacey Carson, Telehealth Council Chair

- Bill Hazle, MD moved to approve the Idaho Telehealth Council (ITC) meeting minutes from the October 16, 2015 meeting. Susan Ault seconded the motion, motion carried.

Idaho Telehealth Subcommittee Overview and Updates

- Stacey Carson reminded the Council that when discussing reimbursement, it is important to clarify which model, direct-to-consumer or consultative, is being referenced.
- Reimbursement Subcommittee (Goal 1):
 - The reimbursement subcommittee has met three times and participation has been good. A reimbursement matrix was created with information from seven Idaho payers. The matrix is currently in draft form and the subcommittee hopes to have the matrix finalized in the next few weeks. Once complete, the reimbursement matrix will be sent to the payers for final review.
 - Molly Steckel announced the Idaho Medical Association (IMA) will introduce telehealth reimbursement legislation in 2016 that will most likely start with parity of Medicare on covered services. The IMA hopes to get support for this legislation from some members of the Council.
 - The reimbursement subcommittee created a provider survey to assess the telehealth climate in Idaho. Survey links will be given to Council members for them to distribute to providers, hospital CEOs and executives, office managers, etc. Tracey asked the Council to review the survey and send any revisions or additions to Kate Creswell by November 18th, 2015.
 - A Council progress report, including survey data and subcommittee observations, will be prepared in December. Council members will then have an opportunity to discuss and provide feedback during

the next Council meeting. Subcommittees were asked to send observations to Stacey Carson by December 7, 2015.

- SHIP Subcommittee (Goal 2):
 - Co-chair Susan Ault informed the Council that an all-day SHIP planning meeting was held on November 10th in Boise, Idaho. Twenty-two stakeholders collaborated to develop a plan to pursue the delivery of SHIP's objectives to improve access to specialty care and behavioral health services by establishing and expanding telehealth services in SHIP PCMHs and CHEMs. A summary and action plan will be drafted shortly.
 - One major takeaway from the planning meeting was the need to identify future action steps and determine how to proceed when there is not a position/funding to support the work. A few questions to assess the telehealth needs of PCMH clinics will be added to the reimbursement subcommittee's provider survey.

H.R. 2948 Letters of Support

- As a result of the motion made at the September 11th Council meeting, letters were drafted from the Idaho Telehealth Council to Congressman Simpson and Labrador in support of the Medicare Telehealth Parity Act of 2015 (H.R. 2948). During the October 16th Council meeting there was a great deal of discussion and several payers expressed concern with supporting H.R. 2948 without some caveats. The Council passed a motion to re-draft the letters introducing the Council as a resource and generalizing the Council's support for national reform, and bring them back to the Council for approval prior to sending.
- The revised letters were provided to Council members and discussed at length. Rick Goodwin moved to vote on whether or not to send a letter to Congressmen Simpson and Labrador, and if so, to then debate the language of the letter. Molly Steckel seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The Council voted to send a letter to Congressmen Simpson and Labrador.
- Mitch Toryanski then made a motion to send the revised October 29th letter with Melissa Christian's revisions, which she would send to the Council. This motion was seconded by Melissa Christian.
- Molly Steckel made a substitute motion to send the original September 24th letter with the revision to replace the word critical in the fourth line of paragraph two to important. Tracey Sessions seconded the motion and the motion passed. Stacey Carson, Chair, stated she would ask Council members if they would like to be included in the opt-out clause of the letter.
 - Aye (8) - Marc Chasin, Rick Goodwin, Bill Hazle, Casey Meza, Stephanie Sayegh, Tracey Sessions, Molly Steckel, Matt Wimmer
 - Nay (6) - Jill Alessi, Susan Ault, Melissa Christian, Kathy McGill, Mitch Toryanski, Tiffany Whitmore Seibert
 - Abstain (1) - Stacey Carson
 - Absent (8) - Becky diVittorio, William Ganz, Anne Lawler, Paul McPherson, Michael Meza, David Morledge, Rhonda Robinson Beale, Ken Schaecher

Council Check-In: Analysis of ITC Goals/Objectives and Future Direction

- Stacey Carson, Chair, announced that the Council exists due to a House Concurrent Resolution that does not provide on-going funding, and a discussion is needed regarding the future existence of the Council. Progress on Goal Two will continue to be supported by the Idaho SHIP project; however, the Council's long-term existence is not funded. If the Council believes it has a long-term role, a coordinated legislative effort with a clear purpose and funding mechanism would be needed. The Council agreed they have accomplished their charter and the Council should continue until the end of the fiscal year, June 30th. The Council will decide how frequently to meet for the remainder of the fiscal year during the next meeting.

Other Business

- Stacey Carson, Chair invited Alex Adams, the Executive Director of the Idaho State Board of Pharmacy, to present to the Council at the December 11, 2015 meeting.

Next Steps

- The next meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2015.

There being no further business Chairman Carson adjourned the meeting at 11:17 am.