

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON  
PALLIATIVE CARE AND QUALITY OF LIFE  
May 11, 2018**

Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)  
The RSA Tower, Suite 1586  
Montgomery, Alabama

**Members Present**

Rodney O. Tucker, M.D., M.M.M., Chair  
Karen Marlowe, Pharm.D., Co-Chair  
Gregory W. Ayers, M.D.  
John G. Beard, M.B.A.  
Richard J. Brockman, J.D.  
Peter Czaplak, M.S.H.R.M.  
Timothy Mayhall, M.Div.  
Mary Ann Somers, M.A.Ed.

**Members Absent**

Kristi A. Acker, D.N.P.  
Beth Caine, M.B.A.  
Stormy Dismuke, M.S.N.  
Jimel LeShun Gibbs, M.S.N.

**Staff Present**

Scott Harris, M.D., M.P.H., State Health Officer  
Mary G. McIntyre, M.D., M.P.H., Chief Medical Officer  
Dennis Blair, Bureau of Health Provider Standards (BHPS)  
Diane A. Mann, BHPS  
LaKesha E. Hopkins, BHPS  
Michael Smith, Office of Telehealth

**Guests Present**

Lyle Walton, M.D.  
Eric Wallace, M.D.  
Kathy Stumbaugh  
Allison Glassco, F.N.P.-C.

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Dr. Rodney Tucker, Chair, welcomed members and guests; Dr. Eric Wallace from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) and Michael Smith, Director of the Office of Telehealth within ADPH. Dr. Lyle Walton, who serves as Dr. Tucker's new proxy, introduced himself to the Council.

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2018:**

The Council recommended approval of the Minutes of February 9, 2018, as distributed; the motion carried unanimously.

## **OPIOID PRESCRIBING AND REGULATION UPDATES:**

Dr. Greg Ayers provided an update on the opioid epidemic, noting that Alabama remains the highest prescribing state in the country in 2017 and is still in the midst of the "opioid crisis." He also stated that the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners is continuing to work on approaches to reduce prescription writing in the state.

## **TELEHEALTH INITIATIVES IN ALABAMA (EXHIBITS "A" and "B"):**

Mr. Michael Smith gave a presentation regarding telehealth efforts of ADPH. He explained that there are currently several telehealth services and they are in the process of developing new services. He emphasized that the technology had been in existence for several years.

Dr. Eric Wallace gave a presentation regarding telehealth efforts and eMedicine visits at UAB. A video of an actual eMedicine visit with a patient was shown to the Council. Dr. Wallace discussed the ability to provide clinical services through the use of technology.

## **MEMBER DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Dennis Blair explained to the Council that a member was needed to serve on the Pediatric Palliative and End of Life Care Form Temporary Task Force derived from the Alex Hoover Act. Dr. Tucker made a motion and it was seconded to nominate Ms. Jimel Gibbs; the motion carried unanimously.

## **NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next meeting of the Council was scheduled for Friday, August 10, 2018. A subsequent meeting was scheduled for November 16, 2018.

---

Rodney O. Tucker, M.D., M.M.M., Chair  
State Advisory Council on Palliative Care and Quality of Life

---

Mary G. McIntyre, M.D., M.P.H., Chief Medical Officer  
Acting Medical Consultant  
Bureau of Health Provider Standards  
Alabama Department of Public Health

Approved August 10, 2018


## Office of Telehealth

### Alabama Department of Public Health

Establish Telehealth Clinics at  
All County Health Departments

Collaborate with All Healthcare Providers

Facilitate All Telehealth Services



## Milestones


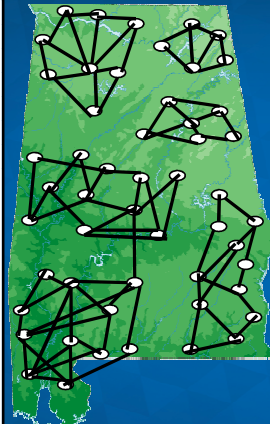
- **2014:** Purchase components / custom cart (\$11,000 vs. \$30,000 per cart)
- **2015:** 44 of 66 county health departments have bandwidth for telehealth
  - Deployed 6 carts
- **2016:** Deployed 10 carts (16 total)
- **2017:** 60 of 66 county health departments have bandwidth for telehealth
  - Deployed 13 carts (29 total)
- **2018:** Grant funding to deploy 31 carts (60 total by August 2018)

## Telehealth Services

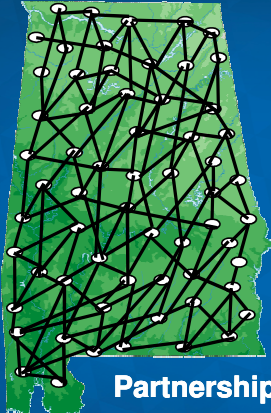
**ADPH Model:**

- Custom build Carts
- Deploy to Site, Train and Support Staff
- Manage Network
- \$11,000 per Cart

Includes:  
Bluetooth Stethoscope  
And Handheld Exam Camera

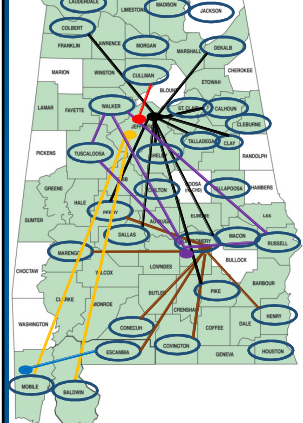



Until now,  
telehealth efforts  
in Alabama  
have been:  
Individual  
Telehealth  
Networks  
Providing  
Single Health Care  
Service



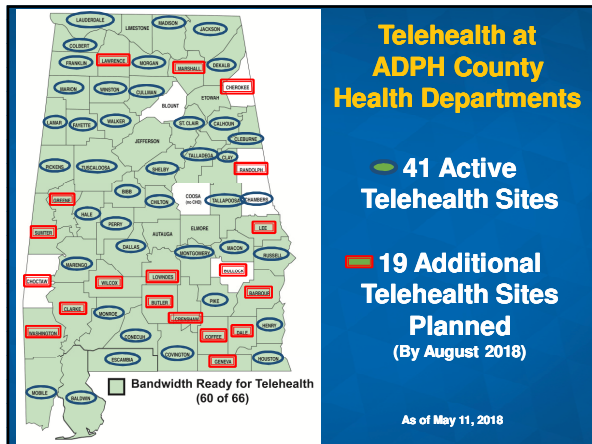
Now, Alabama  
County Health  
Departments are  
single point of entry  
for  
Telehealth Clinics  
For  
All Health Care  
Services

Partnerships and Collaboration



### Telehealth at ADPH County Health Departments

- Medical AIDS
- Outreach
- UAB School of Medicine
- AIDS Alabama
- ADPH STD Program
- University of South Alabama
- Veterans Affairs



**Alabama Telehealth Champions**

Telehealth Providers/Partners:  
 ADPH STD Program  
 AIDS Alabama  
 Children's Rehabilitation Services  
 Medical Advocacy and Outreach  
 UAB Medical Center  
 University of South Alabama  
 Veterans Affairs (Birmingham)

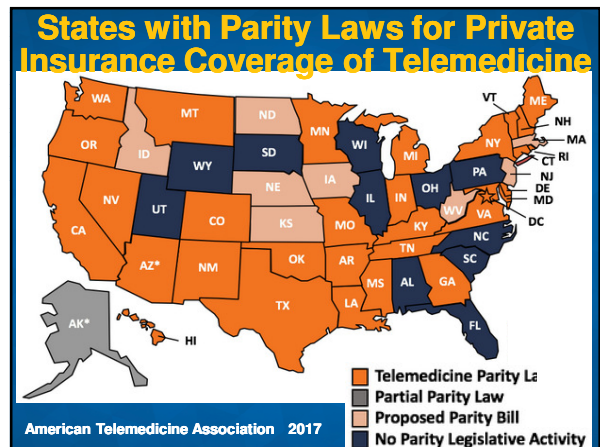
Partnerships Under Development:  
 ADPH Clinical Laboratories  
 ADPH Family Planning Program  
 Alabama Coalition Against Rape  
 Auburn University  
 Children's Hospital of Alabama  
 Veterans Affairs (Montgomery)  
 Vision Coalition of Alabama

**Telehealth Services**

Current Telehealth Services:  
 STD: patient education, counseling, partner tracing  
 Mental health counseling  
 Pediatric neurology consults  
 HIV/AIDS: treatment, follow-up, and support  
 Nephrology: home dialysis patients; consults  
 Diabetes education

New Telehealth Services Being Developed:  
 Genetic counseling  
 Maternal fetal medicine  
 Opioid agonist therapy  
 Pediatric neurology for patients with epilepsy  
 Visualization for family planning  
 Patient education prior to colonoscopy procedure  
 Diabetic retinopathy screening

Telehealth carts: used for meetings and training



**Telehealth Challenges**

- Financial Sustainability for:
  - Origination Sites and Distant Specialists
- Greater Access But Same Provider Shortages
- Establish Network Scheduling Across Multiple Agencies
- Maintain Network Efficiency, QI, and Monitor Patient Outcomes

**Alabama Public Health**

*Our lives improve not at the moment of invention, but when we accept it as essential.*

Office of Telehealth  
 Michael Smith, MSPH, MEd  
 334 - 206 - 5631  
 michael.smith@adph.state.al.us

Jessica Hardy, MPH, DNP, APRN, ACNS-BC  
 334 - 206 - 5665  
 jessica.hardy@adph.state.al.us

ALABAMA PUBLIC HEALTH



**uabmedicine** **What is UAB eMedicine**

- Past-eMedicine was the UAB brand for direct-to-consumer medicine for urgent care
- Present-eMedicine is expanding to recreate UAB Medicine in the virtual space

**uabmedicine** **Example of a UAB eMedicine Visit**

- Originating Sites-Where the patient is located at the time of the visit
  - Alabama Department of Public Health
  - Hospitals- USDA Grant
  - Nursing Homes
- **The Visit**
  - Interactive Videoconferencing
  - Physical Exam
  - Labs
  - Imaging

**uabmedicine** **TeleHealth Settings**

- Direct to Consumer**: 2400 eMedicine Visits 2017. Expanding to Phone Step-up prior to videoconferencing/lab ticket Remote Monitoring
- Scheduled Clinic**: 31+ visits completed/7500+ miles saved for patients. 31 Providers privileged by May 1. With subspecialist at Hospitals and County Health Departments
- Emergent Care**: Stroke/ Behavioral Health/ Emergency Medicine. Planning and implementation underway
- eICU**: UAB Critical Care providing CHS coverage. Phasing in with Round & Respond. Vaughan Regional-first in-state partner
- Post-Acute Care**: Cardiopulmonary rehab project. Arlington Nursing Facility

**uabmedicine** **TeleHealth Scenarios Palliative Care**

- Direct to Consumer**: Patient or family member at home requires one on one training/ Answering of questions
- Scheduled Clinic/Home Visit**: ADPH sites/ Cancer Centers etc. Survivorship and coping
- Inpatient Consultation**: Inpatient Consultations for palliative care services
- Post-Acute Care**: Home Based Clinics and Remote Monitoring
- Training**: Echo Model

**uabmedicine** **Home Based**

**webex** **uabmedicine**

## Palliative Care Training

- ECHO Model
- Webex
  - Event Center
  - Training Center
- Becoming an ECHO Hub



UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA  
BIRMINGHAM  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## UAB eMedicine Programs in Queue

- Palliative Care
- Maternal Fetal Medicine
- Pediatric Nephrology
- Transplant
- Adult Congenital Cardiology
- Epilepsy
- Pediatric Epilepsy
- Endocrinology
- Neurosurgery
- Genetic Counseling
- Bone Marrow Transplant/Oncology
- Urology
- Home Based –Post CHF Follow up



UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA  
BIRMINGHAM  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## Population Health

- Remote Monitoring

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA  
BIRMINGHAM  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## Further Steps

- Regulatory
- eMedicine Coordinating Center
  - Scheduling
- Billing
- Documentation
- Tracking Impact
- Support Processes
- Efficiency

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA  
BIRMINGHAM  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## Conclusions

- UAB eMedicine will be UAB Medicine in the virtual space
- As UAB eMedicine continues to expand UAB is changing at a Health System Level to accommodate scalable virtual care across Alabama and the Globe
- Takes significant coordination of care

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA  
BIRMINGHAM  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH