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 Czapla, 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

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**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)

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**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

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**Until now, telehealth efforts in Alabama have been:**

Individual Telehealth Networks Providing Single Health Care Service

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

Partnerships and Collaboration

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**Telehealth at ADPH County Health Departments**

- Medical AIDS Outreach
- UAB School of Medicine
- AIDS Alabama
- ADPH STD Program
- University of South Alabama
- Veterans Affairs
Telehealth at ADPH County Health Departments

- 41 Active Telehealth Sites
- 19 Additional Telehealth Sites Planned (By August 2018)

As of May 11, 2018

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

States with Parity Laws for Private Insurance Coverage of Telemedicine

Alabama Public Health

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

Office of Telehealth
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Telehealth Services

Current Telehealth Services:
- STD: patient education, counseling, partner tracing
- Maternal fetal medicine
- 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
Exhibit "B"
State Advisory Council on Palliative Care and Quality of Life
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Eric Wallace, MD
Medical Director of Telehealth

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

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

TeleHealth Scenarios Palliative Care
- Patient or family member at home requires one on one training/Answering of questions
  - ADPH sites/ Cancer Centers etc. Survivorship and coping
  - Inpatient Consultations for palliative care services
  - Home Based Clinics and Remote Monitoring
  - Training Echo Model

TeleHealth Settings
- Direct to Consumer
  - 24/7 eMedicine Visits 2017: Expanding to Phone Step-up prior to videoconferencing/lab ticket
  - Remote Monitoring
- Scheduled Clinic
- Emergent Care
- eICU
- Post-Acute Care
- Clinical Settings
  - Scheduled Clinic/Home Visit
  - Inpatient Consultation
  - Post-Acute Care
  - Training Echo Model

Home Based
- Cardiopulmonary rehab project
  - Arlington Nursing Facility

Home Based Clinics and Remote Monitoring
- Planned and implemented underway
- UAB Critical Care providing CHS coverage
  - Phasing in with Round & Respond
  - Vaughan Regional - First in-state partner
- Planning and implementation underway
- Stroke/Behavioral Health/Emergency Medicine
  - Planning and implementation underway
- VA-funded

Direct to Consumer
- 31+ visits completed/7500+ miles saved for patients
- 31 Providers privileged by May 1
  - With subspecialist at Hospitals and County Health Departments

Palliative Care Training

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

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

Population Health

- Remote Monitoring

Further Steps

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

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