

Meeting Summary

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 | 10:00 - 12:00 am

Next Meeting – November 17, 2020 | 1 – 3 pm via Zoom

Highlights: Sen. Becker recognized by members for her work supporting telehealth WA Medical Association as Legislator of the Year. Office of Broadband and Rep. Mia Gregerson (D-33) shared updates on efforts supporting digital equity across state. Dr. Leo Morales shared framework for identifying potential inequities in telehealth access and uptake. Statewide data collection discussed. Collaborative working with Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center (NRTRC) and UW's Behavioral Health Institute (BHI) to update telehealth training for SB 6061.

Review of Meeting Minutes July 2020

Minutes Approved

- **Action:** Ms. LaGrone (Collaborative Program Manager) to post approved July notes on Website

Sen. Randi Becker Send-Off All

Reviewed Sen. Becker's long history as a telehealth champion and visionary over her career as Senator of District 2. She sponsored and passed 8 bills directly related to telehealth including payment parity, expansion of originating sites, training standards, and proxy credentialing to name a few. Rep. Schmick (R-09), Rep. Riccelli (D-03), and Collaborative members shared their thoughts and memories working alongside Sen. Becker and thanked her for her work. Sean Graham (WSMA) announced Sen. Becker is nominated as the WSMA Legislator of the Year Award.

Policy Update: Broadband Access Rep. Marcus Riccelli (D-03), Rep. Mia Gregerson (D-33), Russ Elliot (Director, WA Office of Broadband)

Rep. Gregerson (D-33) shared updates on efforts to address digital equity and welcomed participation from health care sector in digital equity workgroup. She hope to increase telehealth participation in I-ACT workgroup to help identify opportunities for collaboration across sectors. For example, identifying how to leverage K-20 network for healthcare programs as well as education.

Russ Elliott, Director of the Office of Broadband shared updates from his efforts to [collect data on internet access, speed, and pricing across Washington](#). His office has collected more than 30,000 data points in the past month, which will then be used to identify areas with the most need and help leverage conversations with internet providers.

- **Action:** Follow up with Rep. Gregerson and Sabrina Roach on increasing health care representation at I-ACT workgroup meetings.
- **Action:** Follow up with Rep. Gregerson and Sabrina Roach on presenting at November 15 meeting.

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Policy Update: Other Sean Graham (WSHA), Micah Matthews (Washington Medical Commission), Nicole LaGrone (WA TH Collaborative)

No concrete steps or guidance from Governor's office on [4 state telehealth alliance](#). HCA offering telehealth guidelines and support to DoH for Refugee Health Program. WMC currently working to create telemedicine rules out of existing guidelines and policies, as requested by various stakeholders. First official rulemaking meeting to be held, but have draft of existing policies and guidelines.

Telehealth policy items to discuss at the next Collaborative meeting in November – ADA and LEP requirements for Telehealth, Nurse Licensure Compact, Remote Patient Monitoring and eConsults

- **Action:** Follow up with Micah Matthews on HSQA decision on SB 6061 scope
- **Action:** Follow up with members on speakers for Nov meeting policy items

Equity in Telehealth Dr. Leo Morales (Professor and Assistant Dean, Office of Healthcare Equity, UW & Co-Director, Latino Center for Health)

Dr. Morales confirmed there is not a lot of data to share on this topic yet, however he introduced the Social Ecological framework, which posits health can be conceptualized across different levels - from society down to the individual, to help identify potential obstacles in telehealth access and usage. For example, *Societal and Community* factors include internet access and speed, trust of technology, welcoming virtual spaces for marginalized groups, portal navigation complexity etc. *Individual and Family* factors include personal technology, privacy with living circumstances, limited English proficiency, disabilities etc. Dr. Morales highlighted data from UC San Francisco showing health care visits have declined for certain vulnerable groups (Medicare, Medicaid, Low English Proficiency etc.) since telehealth was introduced. In discussion, he suggested data collection to better understand how those populations in Washington have responded to increased telehealth access. Also suggested partnering with community health groups that have more nuanced understanding of the challenges faced by the populations they serve such as SeaMar.

- **Action:** Follow Up with Sen. Becker on resources for state level data collection on telehealth uptake, particularly for Medicare, Medicaid, LEP, and 65+

Collaborative Training Updates Nicole LaGrone (WA TH Collaborative)

Collaborative collaborating with NRTRC who will host interactive training on their website. New training will meet testing component requirements of SB6061 and be free to the public. Behavioral Health Institute creating BH Specific Training given the variance in regulations around behavioral health such as prescriptions, credentialing, reimbursement and privacy. New Medical training will include guidelines on when telemedicine is not appropriate, conducting a physical exam via telemedicine, and interpreter services. Challenges in updating training include meeting needs of broader health care professional base and offering accurate and useful information around policies currently in flux due to the pandemic, such as Medicare reimbursement policy. Collaborative agrees having evergreen links in training and offering guidance without being too prescriptive is the best way forward. Waiting on update from WMC on tele-presenters.

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- **Action:** Program Manager to send out google document of communications plan to members.
- **Action:** Training review team to share training draft with members for final review.

Next meeting topics: Digital Equity, Nurse Licensure Compact, Telehealth and ADA, Remote Patient Monitoring & eConsults

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