

School-Based Telehealth Workgroup

Draft Recommendations Subgroup

January 30, 2019

Meeting Summary

Key discussion items include:

- The Draft Recommendations Subgroup (subgroup) developed draft informal recommendations based on key items discussed in version 5 of the information gathering tables.
- The subgroup discussed the establishment of payment differentials to encourage adoption and implementation of telehealth programs in schools. It was noted that funding should target schools and providers, and include a mechanism for reimbursing services that are not currently covered when delivered via telehealth (i.e., individual education program services).
- Discussions on increasing awareness of school-based telehealth highlighted the need for activities to be completed as a partnership between school districts and local health departments. Members suggested that strategies should consider the medium for delivering education and appropriate messaging for a variety of audiences, including parents, students, school staff, and community providers.
- The subgroup discussed the need to foster the development of policies that allow flexibility in developing school-based telehealth programs to address the range of care and care coordination needs of the student population and community. The notion of having levels for school-based telehealth programs, where schools could be categorized based on meeting a set of requirements to allow for greater innovation was suggested.
- Regarding the technical requirements for school-based telehealth visits, the subgroup generally agreed that the requirements utilized should align with existing recognized standards, including Medicaid, the Maryland Department of Health, and national standards.
- The subgroup discussed opportunities to engage and/or develop community-based stakeholder groups to provide input on policies to advance school-based telehealth. Suggestions around leveraging existing school-based stakeholder groups, such as local school health councils, were discussed.
- *The meeting for scheduled Wednesday, February 27, 2019 will be cancelled. The MHCC will draft supporting rationale for the draft recommendations and provide it to the workgroup for written comments.*