

School-Based Telehealth Workgroup

August 28, 2019

Meeting Summary

Key discussion items include:

- The final draft recommendations are organized by the following key categories: 1) increasing awareness, 2) privacy and security, 3) policy development – oversight and innovation, and 4) funding. Shared goals, priorities, and unique viewpoints among workgroup participants has informed an iterative approach in developing recommendations over the last year; viewpoints are reflective of individual participants and should not be generalized.
- The recommendations provide a practical foundation for advancing use of telehealth in schools. There are many unique aspects of school-based health centers, school health services, and special education (IEP) related services as it relates to policies, procedures, standards, and guidelines. Tactics for implementation of the recommendations should not be all-inclusive; careful consideration of how State and federal policy and funding requirements apply to each is required.
- All of the recommendations, with the exception of grant funding, can be implemented through stakeholder collaboration. There is general support to establish an inter-agency collaborative as a next step to identify goals and implementation strategies; MHCC could serve as a facilitator. Activities could include:
 - Identifying a wide-range of individuals and organizations to serve as telehealth champions that advocate for grant funding and promote the educational, clinical, and economic benefits of telehealth as a service delivery mechanism in schools. Some messaging would need to be customized for each stakeholder group.
 - Assisting with privacy and security related matters pertaining to telehealth and implementation of ATA technical standards.
 - Helping foster policy discussions among existing advisory groups, such as identifying subject matter experts to provide presentations during advisory group meetings. Telehealth should align with existing policy frameworks (not create additional requirements) that foster innovation and ensure students receive high-quality care through expanded access to a wide spectrum of services (e.g., primary and acute care, chronic disease management, behavioral and mental health, speech therapy, etc.). Telehealth champions should be leveraged to foster policy development.
- Grant awards, if funding becomes available, should be determined collaboratively, taking into consideration the unique needs of school districts, applicability of use cases; and measurable goals and objectives to assess outcomes and cost savings/avoidance.
- *The final draft report will be circulated in the coming weeks for review by the workgroup before submission to the Senate Finance Committee in November 2019.*