

School-Based Telehealth Workgroup

June 20, 2018

Meeting Summary

Key discussion items include:

- The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) framed the discussion by providing an overview of the role of the School-Based Telehealth Workgroup (workgroup) in identifying deficiencies in existing policies related to school-based telehealth programs and development of recommendations, including reporting timeframes and deliverables.
- Stakeholders attending the meeting introduced the current landscape of school-based telehealth as it relates to the provision of Individualized Education Plan (IEP) services and somatic care services in Maryland public schools. Charles County overviewed IEP services provided, the federal mandate in providing these services, the need for teletherapy, and how they are currently using teletherapy to address services needs in their schools. Program logistics, therapist shortage, and reimbursement were discussed. Howard County presented on their telehealth model offered through school based health centers (SBHCs), including technology costs, community partnerships, licensing, reimbursement, outcomes, and staffing models.
- Representatives from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) provided an overview of the process to establish SBHCs in State public schools. The application process is carried jointly by both departments; MSDE is the authority on providing State recognition of SBHCs. Requirements to receive State recognition were discussed, including staffing models, standards, and renewal. MDH has established requirements for telehealth as a method of service delivery within a SBHC, these include administrative procedures, technology, staffing credentials, among other things. Regulations related to the differences in the provision of somatic services and school health services were discussed.
- Representatives from Maryland Medicaid and commercial payors in the State provided information in response to workgroup members' inquiries on current policies as it relates to reimbursement of school-based services, including IEP and somatic care services when provided via telehealth or in-person.
- Benefits and barriers of public schools partnering with local hospitals and local health departments were discussed, including emerging initiatives with Johns Hopkins Hospital and University of Maryland Medical Center.
- *The MHCC intends to create educational resource guides highlighting the differences between IEP, SBHC, and school health services and Maryland Medicaid reimbursement for school-based services; these will be presented at the next workgroup meeting. The MHCC will also prioritize discussion items based on initial discussions to guide the next meeting.*
- *The workgroup is scheduled to meet on July 18th from 1:45pm-4:00pm at MHCC and further discuss an approach for improving school-based telehealth programs in the State.*