

**Interstate Telehealth Working Group**

October 20, 2021

Minutes

**Members Present:**

Agatha Kessler, Office of Professional Regulation

Anne Culp, Veterinarian

Cathy Fulton, Executive Director, VPQHC

Christopher Gilding, Telehealth Program Strategist, The University of Vermont Medical Center

David Herlihy, Executive Director, Board of Medical Practice

Debora Teixeria, Oral Health Program Administrator, VDH

Devon Green, Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems

Dillon Burns, Vermont Care Partners

Dylan Bruce, Senior Policy/Planning Analyst, OPR

Elizabeth Boody

Gary Mitchell

Hillary Hill, Medicaid Policy Analyst

Hilary Wolfey, VPQHC

Jeanne Kennedy, Cigna

Jesper Brickley, DO

Jessa Barnard, Vermont Medical Society

Jim Huitt, Board of Psychological Examiners

Ken Lawenda, Board of Optometry

Kirke McVay, Vermont Mental Health Health Counselor

Lauren Hibbert, Director, Office of Professional Regulation

Lauren Layman, Office of Professional Regulation

Linda Waite-Simpson, Vermont Veterinary Medical Association

Lucie Garand, Senior Government Relations Specialist at MMR

Lynn Stanley, Executive Director, National Association of Social Workers

Mary Kate Mohlman, Vermont Director of Public Policy, Bi-State Primary Care Association

Meredith Roberts, Executive Director, American Nursing Association

Michele Degree, Green Mountain Care Board

Michelle Probert

Rebecca Copans, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont

Reid Plimpton, NorthEast Telehealth Resource Center

Sam Peisch, Health Care Advocate

Sarah Kessler, University of Vermont Health Network

Sebastian Arduengo, Department of Financial Regulation

Todd Young, University of Vermont Health Network

**I. Minute Approval**

The Working Group convened and approved the September 28th meeting.

**II. Sub-Group Presentation of Final Worksheets**

When reviewing the Group’s participation and membership, several groups were identified as missing. Members were asked to email Agatha to include any missing groups, assured that this was not a final list and that a comprehensive membership roster would be included in the final report.

Each subgroup facilitator presented final recommendations on behalf of their subgroup’s work. Facilitator Ken Lawenda presented recommendations on behalf of the National Licensure Compact subgroup. The subgroup recommended that Compacts should be considered case-by-case and that a paradigm by which Compacts are assessed would be beneficial. When asked whether the subgroup would put forward recommendations on specific Compacts, the facilitator suggested that a guide to assess Compacts would be a better recommendation than a list of recommended Compacts.

Facilitator Jessa Barnard presented recommendations on behalf of the Telehealth Licensure subgroup.

The Subgroup recommended that the State continue to consider telehealth licenses as an option to facilitate Vermont patients receiving increased access to care, recognizing that while the approach has some drawbacks, it has the benefit of full state oversight and protections for Vermont patients.

Facilitator Lynn Stanley presented recommendations on behalf of the Waiver of Licensure Subgroup. The Subgroup did not recommend that the state waive licensing requirements and that if a waiver was available, that the provider should register with the state and be limited for the length of time permitted to practice.

Facilitator Sarah Kessler presented recommendations on behalf of the Regional Reciprocity Agreements Subgroup. The Subgroup generally supports reciprocity agreements and the benefits they offer however is concerned about the resources needed to negotiate, implement, administer and enforce agreements. The Subgroup recommends that concerns could potentially be mitigated by exploring reciprocity in a profession-specific manner and/or over a long period of time.

The Other Policy Options and International Practice Subgroup did not present telehealth recommendations specifically, but did discuss HIPAA Privacy Rules and the importance of patient health information as it relates to telehealth.

**V. Next Steps**

The next meeting of the Telehealth Working group is scheduled for November 1st at 10:00 AM.