



## Interstate Telehealth Working Group

August 31, 2021

Approved 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

David Rettew, MD, Child Psychiatrist

Devon Green, Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems

Dillon Burns, Vermont Care Partners

Erin Carmichael, Director of Quality Management, Department of Vermont Health Access

Hillary Hill, Medicaid Policy Analyst

Hilary Wolfey, VPQHC

James Henzel, Phoenix House

Jeanne Kennedy, Cigna

Jennifer Rotblatt, Office of Professional Regulation

Jessa Barnard, Vermont Medical Society

Jim Huitt, Board of Psychological Examiners

Ken Lawenda, Board of Optometry

Kimberly Kilby

Kirke McVay, Vermont Mental Health Health Counselor

Sam Peisch, Health Care Advocate

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

Matt Capuano, MVP Healthcare

Meredith Roberts, Executive Director, American Nursing Association

Michele Degree, Green Mountain Care Board

Patricia Breneman, Vermont Department of Health

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

Sarah Teachout, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont

Scott Strenio, Chief Medical Officer, Medicaid at State of Vermont

Sebastian Arduengo, Department of Financial Regulation

Tammy Austin, Board of Allied Mental Health

Todd Young, University of Vermont Health Network  
William Keithcart, LADC

## **I. Minute Approval**

The Working Group convened and approved the July 30<sup>th</sup> minutes.

## **II. Sub-Group Updates**

Each subgroup facilitator presented an update on their group's work, including a description of the subgroup's goals, deliverables, recommendations and action items.

When reviewing national licensure compacts, the Group discussed how similar full licensure is to compact licensure and made suggestions to Ken Lawenda for further subgroups discussion. The Executive Director of the Medical Practice Board, David Herlihy, offered to participate in further discussions of this subgroup as it considers compacts outside of the Nurse Licensure Compact.

When reviewing telehealth licensure, Dr. Tiffany Pierce shared that in her experience, Vermont telehealth licensure is more cumbersome than other states. The Group discussed waiver of licensure as a benefit to the Vermont patient vs. the Vermont provider. Subgroup facilitator Lynn Stanley clarified that the 20 visits outlined in the recommendation applies to a cumulative count per patient. The Group further discussed that a time limit may also be beneficial, for example one year. The Department of Financial Regulation identify potential statutory considerations for reimbursement challenges. The Group discussed overlap among the subgroups and identified areas of common topics and future discussion.

## **III. Statutory Criteria**

Lauren Layman reviewed the Group's statutory criteria for evaluating each policy recommendation. Lauren presented a form that each subgroup will be asked to complete for the next Group meeting in September. David Herlihy recommended that prescribing authority be reviewed at every subgroup meeting and Lauren Hibbert suggested that the Executive Officer of Pharmacy review recommendations. Additionally, Scott Sternio suggested that MAT programs be discussed further in subgroups.

Lauren Layman presented a worksheet that outlines the statutory criteria for consideration and outline its utility in standardizing the subgroups' work in preparation for the final report.

Lauren reviewed the timeline for continued subgroup work, deliverables and the final report. The group discussed modifications to the timeline which will be discussed at the next meeting.

## **V. Next Steps**

The statutory criteria worksheet will be emailed to subgroups for use at their next meetings. The next meeting of the Telehealth Working group is scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM.