

**The Alabama TeleHealth Workgroup Meeting**  
**Meeting will be held virtually**  
**Thursday, July 27, 2023, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM cst**

**Workgroup Objectives:**

Provide insight and direction regarding the advancement of telehealth in Alabama.  
Encourage collaboration among existing telehealth networks and programs.

**Agenda**

Welcome & Introductions: Lloyd Sirmons

**Thank you all for joining today's meeting. We had 44 in attendance for today's meeting.**

SE Telehealth Resource Center Regional Updates: Lloyd Sirmons

- **Southeast Region Telehealth Conference – New Orleans, LA – Feb 2024**
  - The SETRC parent company, GPT, is now affiliated with the Mercer University School of Medicine. **It will be business as usual. There will be some minor changes in branding with color changes, etc. The SETRC will function as usual.**
  - The SETRC is partnering with the SCTRC, TEXLA, the MUMC Center of Excellence and the MUSC Center of Excellence in hosting a telehealth conference in New Orleans next February. More information will come shortly. **More information will be sent out as planning continues.**
  - Emergency Management partners **The SETRC is looking for partners in the emergency/disaster preparedness space. We are looking for partners to take advantage of the mobile learning center in disaster preparedness situations.**
  - SETRC Resources
    - NSAT ([www.nsat.us](http://www.nsat.us)) (search for telehealth)
    - Telehealth In Practice <https://telehealth-in-practice.thinkific.com/courses/telehealth-training>
      - Telehealth Modalities
      - The Telehealth Team
      - Telehealth Technology
      - Telehealth and Broadband Connectivity
      - Telepresence Skills
      - Telehealth Use Cases

**We are grateful to Kristina and Peter for taking the time to share with the group today.**

**Program Spotlight**

**Unite Us – Kristina Wentworth** - [Unite Us](#) is the nation's leading software company enabling collaboration across sectors to improve the health and well-being of communities. Unite Us' secure solution establishes a new standard of care that identifies and predicts social care needs, helps connect people to services, and leverages meaningful outcomes data to further drive community investment. Through Unite Us' national network and software, community-based organizations, government agencies, health plans, and healthcare providers are all connected to better collaborate and meet the needs of the individuals in their communities. Follow Unite Us on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#).

**WNY R-AHEC – Peter Appleton** - Western New York Rural Area Health Education, Inc. (R-AHEC)'s mission is "to improve health and healthcare through education." Our vision is to enrich the health of individuals and communities we have the privilege to serve, by building collaborative relationships and being a valued educational resource that implements innovative programs with passion and integrity. R-AHEC serves a predominately rural 12-county region, headquartered in Warsaw, New York. Counties include Allegany,

Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates, which covers 9,140 square miles. R-AHEC addresses the health needs of its rural and underserved communities by focusing on: Workforce Development; Housing; Education; and Health Information Technology Support.

### State Policy Update

- CCHP Legislative update: <https://track.govhawk.com/reports/M6gz1/public>
- AL BCBS update – Debbie Meadows, HCN Senior Project Manager, BCBS of Alabama **Resources attached**
- Update from AL MCaid – Latonda Cunningham, Associate Director for Dental, EPSDT, and Physician Division, and Telemedicine Team lead will present with Beth Huckabee, Director of the Dental, EPSDT, and Physicians Division. **Presentation attached.**

### Federal Policy Update – Lloyd Sirmons

- CCHP federal policy tracker <https://www.cchpca.org/federal/pending-legislation/>
- Mei Kwong – CCHP – 2024 proposed PFS overview - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zBhRXpoVv0>
- The CCHP recently posted their 2024 PFS Fact Sheet <https://www.cchpca.org/resources/>
- **DEA prescribing rules** – For any practitioner-patient telemedicine relationships that have been or will be established up to November 11, 2023, the full set of telemedicine flexibilities regarding prescription of controlled medications established during the COVID-19 PHE will be extended for one year – through November 11, 2024.
- **Proposed 2024 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS)**
  - CMS will accept comments on the proposed rule through Sept. 11.
- **Expanded Telehealth Access Act (HR 3875)** would add physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and other therapy providers in private practice, as well as facility-based outpatient therapy providers under Medicare Part B, as permanent authorized providers of telehealth services under Medicare.
- **CONNECT for Health Act 2023** will expand coverage of telehealth services through Medicare, make permanent COVID-19 telehealth flexibilities and make it easier for patients to connect with their doctors.

Lloyd Sirmons	SETRC
Boyd Mark	SETRC
Sharonda Bonner	UAB
Suleima Salgado	SETRC
Beth Huckabee	Alabama Medicaid Agency
Amelia de los Reyes	UA College of Community Health Sciences
Debbie Meadows	Blue Cross of Alabama
Rena Brewer	GPT / SETRC
Penni Watts	UAB SON
Peter Appleton	WNY R-AHEC
Jessica Miller	Capstone Rural Health
Latonda Cunningham	Alabama Medicaid Agency
Kristina Wentworth	Unite Us
Lana Dennis	CMS
Karl Bryant	ADPH - Office of Primary Care and Rural Health
Socrates Aguayo	Unite Us
Robert Jordan	ADPH - Office of Primary Care and Rural Health
Kim Wood	USA CSHI
Susan Griffin	Children's of AL - PATHS
Nathan Culmer	The University of Alabama

Sara Colvin	Aya Healthcare
April Jones	Tuskegee University Social Work Department
Karen Parker	Quality of Life Health Services, Inc.
Bart Kelly	UAB Medicine
Pam Culotta	CNO Ascension St. Vincent's Chilton
Choona Lang	ADPH Bureau of Home and Community Service
Ben Busbee	Charles Henderson Child Health Center
April Golson	AL Dept of Public Health
Rae Strength	AL Dept of Public Health
Teresa Skinner	AL Dept of Public Health