Center for Connected Health Policy
Telehealth Coalition Charter

Introduction
The Coalition is a nonpartisan affiliation of over sixty statewide organizations and individuals who meet monthly to discuss emerging telehealth policy issues in California and cooperative means of advancing California telehealth policy. The group began meeting in 2011 when AB 415, “The Telehealth Advancement Act”, was introduced and has continued to meet as telehealth becomes more integral in the delivery of health services in California. Convened by the Center for Connected Health Policy, the diversity of organizations reflects the potential scope and reach telehealth can have on the health and wellbeing of the state’s population.

Through the collaboration of the group’s diverse members, the Coalition aims create a better landscape for health care access, care coordination, and reimbursement through and for telehealth.

Definition
“Telehealth means the mode of delivering health care services and public health via information and communication technologies to facilitate the diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, care management, and self-management of a patient’s health care while the patient is at the originating site and the health care provider is at a distant site. Telehealth facilitates patient self-management and caregiver support for patients and includes synchronous interactions and asynchronous store and forward transfers.” (Cal. Bus. And Prof. Code sec. 2290.5)

Objectives
The Telehealth Coalition will:

- Monitor and track policies, laws and research that affect telehealth;
- Discuss perspectives and share analyses on telehealth;
- Develop and disseminate model law and policy;
- Advocate for and endorse members’ bills that align with the Coalition’s principles;
- Respond to government requests to comment pertaining to telehealth;
- Develop and disseminate educational materials outlining the definition of telehealth and its clinical and economic benefits to stakeholders including patients, providers, and lawmakers; and
- Define and track success.
Principles
When vetting priorities and forming its agenda, the Coalition will apply the following principles in supporting activities and legislation. In applying these principles, the Coalition should ensure that its decisions are evidence-informed and aligned with the definitions provided below.

- **Promote access and coverage.** Policies, legislation and activities should promote access to care through telehealth and coverage of telehealth services.

- **Enhance care coordination.** Policies, legislation and activities should reinforce the patient-centered medical home model and reduce care fragmentation both within and among systems.

- **Promote provider and patient engagement.** Policies, legislation and activities should promote the participation of providers in efforts that improve performance and patient health outcomes, and the involvement of patients in their health care.

- **Reinforce clinical quality.** Policies, legislation and activities should reinforce desirable, measurable outcomes, specifically those used by regulators and produced by standard-setting organizations.

- **Ensure data privacy and security.** Policies, legislation and activities should ensure data privacy and security, particularly as those standards are prescribed by law and industry standards.

Timeline of Activities
Over the course of 2019, the Telehealth Coalition will complete the following tasks:

- Hold monthly Telehealth Coalition meetings, sub-group meetings and other ad-hoc meetings, as required;
- Track and publish regular updates and analysis on emerging telehealth issues and law and policy advancements;
- Develop a policy agenda and set of priorities;
- Design a website to serve as a go-to resource on California telehealth policy and research;
- Publish a quarterly newsletter highlighting advancements in California telehealth;
- Host briefing(s) for legislative staff and the wider health policy community;
- Host an in-person meeting in the fourth quarter to discuss accomplishments and recommendations for work in 2020; and
- Publish a final report outlining the accomplishments and recommendations for work in 2020 discussed at the in-person meeting.
Policy Priorities for 2019

- **Coverage and Access**
  - Ensure that Medi-Cal and commercial plans broadly cover all telehealth modalities to the same extent as in-person care.
  - Support efforts to define all appropriate sites are considered valid originating sites.
  - Ensure that patients and providers have the ability to access the internet in order to provide and utilize telehealth, including efforts to expand broadband access.

- **Payment**
  - Make sure all payers reimburse for telehealth services at the same rate as their contracted in-person providers.
  - Ensure that FQHCs are able to receive payment for telehealth services and, when appropriate, without initial face-to-face visit.

- **Transparency and Reporting**
  - Support expanded data collection by state regulators to align incentives across payers and coordinate telehealth components of programs.
  - Require all plans explicitly state telehealth benefits in member collateral materials, including provider directories.
  - Advance the view that telehealth is integral to value-based care.
  - Support the ability of plans to use telehealth providers to meet network adequacy standards, when appropriate.

- **Workforce Expansion**
  - Support changing Medi-Cal policy so that Medi-Cal-enrolled, California-licensed providers do not need to physically present in California to deliver telehealth.
  - Expand scope of practice, as appropriate, to reinforce the medical home model and team-based care.
  - Support efforts to incorporate telehealth into provider training and education programs.

- **Resources**
  - Ensure that providers have the financial resources to incorporate telehealth into their workflow;
  - Urge the state to develop a comprehensive telehealth strategy, fund technical resources and a central repository of California telehealth information to support telehealth programs and providers.
  - Grow the number of providers who know what telehealth services plans cover, and how to bill for them.
Committee Governance
The Telehealth Coalition will maintain Legislation and Education Committees, and form any other committees where necessary. Committees shall meet once a month and report back to the entire Coalition its updates on monthly calls. Each committee will also have a chair, and membership is voluntary.

Legislation Committee
Objectives include

- Understand how the Coalition should support, amend, or oppose current bills
- Develop draft policy slate and draft bill language

Activities include

- Review and confirm priorities with Coalition members to develop a slate for 2020
- Analyze and provide recommendations on current bills
- Represent Coalition interests on stakeholder calls (i.e., DHCS stakeholder meetings), when appropriate

Education Committee
Objectives include

- Develop collateral materials and strategy to educate and liaise with all three branches of government and other stakeholders
- Ensure regulatory follow-through on implementing and enforcing legislation

Activities include

- Create a brand to reinforce messaging and make educational materials for member and Coalition bills
- Develop collateral and strategy to liaise with government on 2019 bills
- Meet with executive branch representatives to discuss telehealth priorities
- Organize education sessions and briefings with legislators and staffers on telehealth topics

Members
The group will be moderated by CCHP and BluePath Health and will include, among others:

- 2020 Mom
- AARP
- Adventist Health
- AHIMA state and local chapters
- American Association of University Women
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice
- BlueJay Mobile Health
- BluePath Health
- California Academy of Physician Assistants
- California Chronic Care Coalition
California Coalition for Children’s Safety and Health
California Commission on Aging
California Dental Hygienists’ Association
California Department of Public Health
California Health Collaborative
California Hospital Association
California Long-Term Care Ombudsman Association
California Medical Association
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
California Telehealth Network
Case Management Society of American Indians
Center for Autism and Related Disorders
Center for Technology and Aging
California Health Care Foundation
Chico State University
Children’s Partnership
Cisco
Citizen Advocacy Center
Clinical Informatics
Coalition for Compassionate Care of California
Connecting to Career
California Primary Care Association
Direct Dermatology
Essential Access
Family Voices of California
Health Access
Health Care Interpreter Network
KP Public Affairs
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Loma Linda University
Mental Health America of California
Multi-State Licensure for California Nurses Taskforce
MVM Strategy
National Health Law Program
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Noteware & Rosa Government Relations
OCHIN
Partnership HealthPlan
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
Presence Learning
Providence St. Joseph’s
Public Health Institute
Rady Children’s Hospital
San Francisco Dental Hygiene Society
Scripps Health
Sharp Health Plan
Silent Partner Strategies
Shinsheimer Law
Stanford Children’s Health
Stanford Health Care
Steinberg Institute
Sutter Health
The MAVEN Project
Tusk Strategies
UC Davis Health
UC Office of the President
UCSF Health
University of the Pacific
West Health
Western Center on Law and Poverty