Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners
Telehealth Taskforce
Monday July 20, 2021

MINUTES

The Telehealth Taskforce meeting of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners was called to order at 7:30 a.m. in the Poplar Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Dr. Deborah Christiansen, Taskforce Chair.

Committee members present	Deborah Christiansen, MD, Taskforce Chair Samantha McLerran, MD Mr. Robert Ellis, Consumer Member
Staff present:	Rene Saunders, MD, Medical Consultant, BME Angela Lawrence, BME Executive Director Francine Baca-Chavez, Deputy General Counsel

The Telehealth Taskforce meeting was called to order by Dr. Christiansen at 7:30 with a roll call. Dr. Christiansen open the discussion with the task at hand of defining a site and site visit in collaboration as it pertains to the current rule. She reminded the taskforce of some advisory rulings received previously by the Board of Medical Examiners specific to this subject matter. One from the Chattanooga school system concerning the supervising physician site visit with the school nurse at multiple locations once a month. Another one in 2017 similar but pertains to multiple skilled nursing facilities. As well as another one concerning psychiatric and mental health care video visits which the board did not agree with. The most recent request was in 2021 and pertained to nurses in hospice care rotating visits. The rule currently speaks to a 30-day site visit which is determined to be where the patient is at the time of care. With the rise of telemedicine practices the patient could be in a location outside of the regular brick and mortar of a physician office. Dr. Saunders raised the underlying question of how a physician can properly supervise/collaborate with a midlevel while assisting in protecting the safety of the patient. Ms. Baca-Chavez provided copies of the AMA Advocacy Resource center document which summarized a state physician assistant scope of practice. Two state listed in this document currently have site visit requirement. After a lengthy discussion Mr. Ellis made a motion to adopt the language from Montana from the AMA Physician Assistant scope of practice. Dr. McLerran seconded the motion and the motion passed. Dr. Christiansen will present the outcome of the taskforce discussion to the full Board for consideration. The taskforce also determined that this is a bigger issue and may require input from the Tennessee Medical Association and well as third party input which is already on the agenda for the Development Committee. Having no public comment the taskforce adjourned at 8:15 am