



## Texas HIMSS Advocacy Newsletter - January 2021

Health IT policy is complex. To make a real impact on public policy, health advocacy is vital and requires strong, respected and coordinated voices.

HIMSS Chapter advocates connect with and educate policymakers at state, provincial and local levels, amplify public policy priorities, research the issues, build coalitions and monitor legislation—all with the goal of influencing public policy. When successful, health advocacy has the power to:

- Guide health IT policy roadmaps
- Enact legislation
- Secure funding for strategic public policy support
- Share stories, data, information and public policy positions

A newsletters to update you on Texas Health IT Advocacy.

### Your Texas HIMSS Advocacy Committee



**Melinda Costin**  
Retired CIO JPS Health Network



**Elsie Gori**  
Division Dir of Nursing Analytics St. David's



**Joe Jackson**  
VP of Sales and Marketing Lone Star



**Steve Kotyk**  
President of EMPI Consulting



**Joseph Kunisch**  
Ent Dir of Clinical Quality Informatics MMHS



**Lee Lavergne**  
Manager IS BSWH



**Sarah Churchill Llamas**  
Chair, Healthcare Group @ Winstead



**Donna Montgomery**  
Clinical Informatics Officer at Lone Star



**Tony Morgan**  
Healthcare IT Leader and Clinical Informatics



**Nasim Rezanejad**  
Physician Solution Analyst @UTHealth



**Mark Steiger**  
Sr. Dir of Operations for Ascension Connect

### Mark your calendars!

- The 2021 session of the Texas Legislature commenced Tuesday January 12th.
- Virtual Health Information Technology (HIT) Day will be February 2nd from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm CST.

## Virtual Health Information Technology (HIT) Day

Our focus for this year will be Telehealth and you won't want to miss our panel of leading experts from across the state.



Telehealth Texas -  
Nora Belcher,  
Executive Director at  
Texas e-Health  
Alliance



Reimbursement –  
Steve Love, President  
and CEO at DFW  
Hospital Council



Rural Health – Mark  
Steiger, Senior  
Director of Operations  
for Ascension Connect



Telehealth National –  
Mei Kwong, Executive  
Director at Center for  
Connected Health  
Policy

This newsletter is for Texas HIMSS members, Texas Legislatures and Texas Legislatures Staff to register for this virtual event. We would love you to attend all four sessions to register you will need to register for each session.

## Virtual Health Information Technology (HIT) Day Zoom Registration Links

Texas Telehealth Policy (9:30-10:15am): Nora Blecher

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_3LFqA\\_wBT-OM\\_2RaRU1xpw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3LFqA_wBT-OM_2RaRU1xpw)

Telehealth Reimbursement Overview (10:30-11:15am): Steve Love

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_iY4D\\_Xp4TP2sWj2ymZnIVw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iY4D_Xp4TP2sWj2ymZnIVw)

Telehealth in Rural Areas Overview (11:30-12:15am): Mark Steiger

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_GvEdZt11QeGBr\\_3DvDbzFg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GvEdZt11QeGBr_3DvDbzFg)

National Telehealth Policy Overview (12:30-1:15pm): Mei Kwong

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_GhHWinXPTo2JgQYA7bH7LA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GhHWinXPTo2JgQYA7bH7LA)

## Texas Legislature Sessions 2021

The Texas Legislature began meeting in regular session on the second Tuesday in January of each odd-numbered year. The Texas Constitution limits the regular session to 140 calendar days.

Each time the legislature meets local government entities pause and follow the thousands of bills introduced in each session because many of them can have a direct impact on budgets for the next two years through what are known as “unfunded mandates.”

The following Telehealth related bills that will be reviewed in the Texas Legislative Session 2021.

## Senate Bills

87(R) SB 40 - Introduced Version - Bill Text

Author: Zaffirini

Caption: Relating to the use of telehealth in health professional programs administered by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

Excerpt: rules relating to the filing of claims and records required to be maintained in connection with telehealth services; (3) implement the requirements of Chapter 111, Occupations Code, or any other law of this state regarding the provision of telehealth services or the protection of patients receiving telehealth services; (4) provide for the remote supervision of assistants and other authorized persons performing duties within their existing scope

87(R) SB 228 - Introduced Version - Bill Text

Author: Blanco

Caption: Relating to the reimbursement and payment of claims by certain health benefit plan issuers for telemedicine medical services and telehealth services.

Excerpt: 87R1901 MEW-D By: Blanco S.B. No. 228 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT relating to the reimbursement and payment of claims by certain health benefit plan issuers for telemedicine medical services and telehealth services.

## House Bills

87(R) HB 745 - Introduced Version

Author: Guerra

Caption: Relating to the establishment of telehealth programs by public schools.

Excerpt: 87R3944 MLH-D By: Guerra H.B. No. 745 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT relating to the establishment of telehealth programs by public schools. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS: SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 38, Education

Code, is amended by adding Section 38.040 to read as follows: Sec. 38.040. TELEHEALTH PROGRAM. (a) In this section, "telehealth

87(R) HB 522 - Introduced Version

Author: Johnson, Julie

Caption: Relating to the reimbursement and payment of claims by certain health benefit plan issuers for telemedicine medical services and telehealth services.

Excerpt: 87R1901 MEW-D By: Johnson of Dallas H.B. No. 522 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT relating to the reimbursement and payment of claims by certain health benefit plan issuers for telemedicine medical services and telehealth services.

87(R) HB 515 - Introduced Version

Author: Oliverson

Caption: Relating to the reimbursement and payment of claims by certain health benefit plan issuers for telemedicine medical services and telehealth services.

Excerpt: 87R1901 MEW-D By: Oliverson H.B. No. 515 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT relating to the reimbursement and payment of claims by certain health benefit plan issuers for telemedicine medical services and telehealth services.

87(R) HB 280 - Introduced Version

Author: Cortez

Caption: Relating to an action plan to expand telemedicine medical services and telehealth services and increase access to critical medical care and health care services in this state.

Excerpt: to read as follows: Sec. 531.021611. ACTION PLAN FOR TELEMEDICINE MEDICAL SERVICES, TELEHEALTH SERVICES, CRITICAL MEDICAL CARE, AND HEALTH CARE SERVICES. (a) The commission shall develop and implement an action plan to: (1) expand the use by health care providers of telemedicine medical services, telehealth services, and related mobile applications for those services and increase access to those services

***Sincerely,***

**YOUR TEXAS HIMSS ADVOCACY COMMITTEE**

dfw.advocacy@himsschapter.org