



## Better Health Together

*This electronic newsletter will be produced weekly to provide high-level updates on the work of the DC Innovation office under the State Innovation Model (SIM) grant as DC develops the State Health Innovation Plan (SHIP). We look forward to your input on our activities and milestones as we work to improve healthcare for DC residents.*

### SIM Work Group Calendar

All Work Group Meetings will be held at 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW-Room 1028

*Care Delivery Work Group*  
April 25, 2016  
3:00pm-4:30pm

*Payment Models Work Group*  
April 27, 2016  
3:00pm-4:30pm

*Advisory Committee Meeting*  
May 11, 2016  
2:00pm-4:00pm

*Payment Models Work Group*  
May 12, 2016  
3:00pm-4:30pm

*Quality Metrics Work Group*  
May 16, 2016  
3:00pm-4:30pm

*Community Linkages Work Group*  
May 18, 2016  
2:00pm-3:30pm

### Recent News

#### SIM Workgroup Update:

The **Quality Metrics Work Group met on April 18<sup>th</sup>**. During the meeting, participants reviewed examples of quality performance reporting in other SIM states. Work group participants also reached a consensus on priority areas for proposed quality measures, which include: sexual health (includes HIV), asthma, cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, behavioral health, oral health, and maternal and infant Health. In addition, participants agreed that measures should be 1) valid, reliable, tested and used, and endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF) 2) harmonize with DC priorities with the opportunity for performance improvement and 3) align with other national measures sets and those commonly used in the District where possible. To access meeting materials and summaries, [click here](#).

The **Community Linkages Work Group met on April 20<sup>th</sup>**. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the information sources that are available for organizations, and others, to identify available health and social service resources. During the discussion, work group participants highlighted previous, on-going, and upcoming initiatives focused on collecting and sharing this type of information, including: D.C. Food Finder, 211 Answers, Please, and the Open Referral Initiative. There was discussion about the challenge of maintaining and managing such information systems. Meeting materials and summaries can be found [here](#).

**NOTICE:** The **Payment Models Work Group this month has been postponed to April 27<sup>th</sup> from 3:00pm to 4:30pm**. The agenda for the meeting will focus on value-based hospital arrangements. For questions or concerns, email [joe.weissfeld@dc.gov](mailto:joe.weissfeld@dc.gov).

#### DHCF Solicits Feedback on Provider Survey

DHCF is requesting feedback from District health care providers. In addition to the SIM Work Groups, this is a unique opportunity for providers to offer their input on the

healthcare system and be part of the District's efforts to improve the health of its population, enhance patient and provider experience, and control health care costs. The information collected will be used to help the District design and implement new health service delivery and payment reforms. To access the survey, click on the following link: <http://dc-sim.surveyanalytics.com>. **Feedback is requested by Friday, April 29, 2016.**

## Announcements

### **CMS Expands Participation in the Bundled Payments for Care Improvement initiative**

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** offered the awardees in the Bundled Payments for Care Improvement (BPCI) initiative the opportunity to extend their participation in Models 2, 3 and 4 through September 30, 2018. The first cohort of awardees in Models 2, 3, and 4 that began in October 2013 were scheduled to end their participation on September 30, 2016. By extending participation, CMS will be able to provide a more robust and rigorous evaluation of the initiative and determine whether the efforts of bundling payments are successful in providing better care while spending health care dollars more wisely. This would build on the [first year evaluation](#). For more information about the Bundled Payments for Care Improvement initiative, please visit: <http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/bundled-payments>.

### **CMS Solicits Candidates for new LAN Work Group**

The **CMS Alliance to Modernize Healthcare (CAMH)** is now soliciting candidates for a new **Learning Action Network (LAN)** work group focused on primary care. This group of experts will collaboratively develop recommendations on the critical components for primary care payment in category 3 or 4 alternative payment models (APMs) and make practical recommendations for accelerating adoption of these models, including steps to support implementation. The LAN is designed to enable participants to work together to achieve alignment across sectors and stakeholder groups. **Nominations or referrals will be accepted through Monday, May 2.** The form can be found [here](#).

### **The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Calls for Research Proposals**

The **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** is launching a call for proposals to support research studying how states are implementing the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) health reforms to inform current implementation efforts and future policy. The ACA introduced a series of reforms to the U.S. health care system, including expanding eligibility for Medicaid, the creation of insurance marketplaces, and the advancement of new payment and delivery models. However, because of the way the law is written, as well as subsequent Supreme Court cases and decisions, states have the ability to implement the ACA reforms in unique ways, often differing in their approach from their neighboring states. Up to \$1.3 million in funding will be awarded, with individual grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$150,000. **The submission deadline is June 1, 2016.** Find more information [here](#).

### **AHRQ Supports Research on Optimizing Care for People with Multiple Chronic Conditions**

The **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)** has a multi-year plan to study and implement new approaches for caring for patients with multiple chronic conditions (MCC). More than one in four Americans, and two out of three older Americans, are estimated to have at least two chronic physical or behavioral health problems. Treatment for people living with these multiple chronic conditions currently accounts for an estimated 66% of the Nation's health care costs. AHRQ has a long-standing interest in increasing understanding of how to optimize care for people living with multiple chronic conditions. To find out more about the research opportunity, [click here](#).

## Events

On **Tuesday, April 26 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. ET, the Kaiser Family Foundation** will hold a web briefing to examine new findings about how the Medicaid expansion has affected patients who are homeless and the providers who care for them. The briefing will address changes in insurance coverage, revenues and costs among Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) projects, community health centers that serve individuals who are homeless, in both expansion and non-expansion states, and compare these to experiences in health centers that serve a broad low-income population. [Register Here](#).

The **ICH Singles Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement (CAHP) Leadership and Community Teams are hosting the CAHP Community Roundtable on Friday, May 6th, from 10:00am – 12:00pm at N Street Village**. During the roundtable, participants will hear an overview of the CAHP System; learn the latest news about outreach and assessment coverage, housing placement progress and goals, and the updated policies and procedures manual; learn how to formally participate in CAHP through an MOU; and provide feedback on what's working and what needs to be improved in the CAHP system. The team encourages provider agency stakeholders to have two representatives attend: the Executive Director (or the person with decision-making authority about whether the agency participates in CAHP) and the program manager in charge of implementing agency's participation in CAHP. **To attend, please RSVP at:** <https://CAHPcommunityroundtable.eventbrite.com>.

**The Department of Health Care Finance will host a telemedicine stakeholder meeting on Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00-4:30PM at 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, (Main Street Room 1028)**. DHCF will discuss the rule that will establish standards for Medicaid beneficiaries receiving healthcare services via telemedicine under the Medicaid fee-for-service program, and to establish conditions of participation and reimbursement policies for providers who deliver healthcare services to Medicaid beneficiaries via telemedicine. If you would like to be **added to the calendar invite or have questions**, please contact Joe Weissfeld at [joe.weissfeld@dc.gov](mailto:joe.weissfeld@dc.gov).

The **Institute for Healthcare Improvement** is hosting an intensive three-day seminar, **Transforming the Primary Care Practice, from June 13<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup> in San Diego**. The seminar will provide leading edge insight on how to: implement key changes that lead to effective, high-quality, person-centered care; apply tested tools for forecasting appointment demand and tracking appointment supply as you work to improve access to care; identify opportunities for improving care delivery through partnerships with patients and families within your practice; use a set of key metrics to guide your empanelment, access, and continuity journey; and develop pragmatic ideas for change to achieve your goals and objectives. To register, [click here](#).

## Resources

### **CMS releases Medicare Advantage quality data for racial and ethnic minorities**

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Office of Minority Health** released data detailing the quality of care received by people with Medicare Advantage by racial or ethnic group. The data are based on an analysis of two sources of information. The first is part of the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS). The second part is the Medicare Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) Survey, which is conducted annually by CMS. CAHPS focuses on the health care experiences of Medicare beneficiaries across the nation. The data and summary report can be viewed [here](#).

### **MHP Evaluation Toolkit for Promotor(a) de Salud Programs**

**MHP Salud** updated a toolkit that offers tips and tools developed especially for Promotor(a) programs. It contains information that will help organizations design an evaluation system from the very beginning of the process, and it also includes suggestions for improving existing evaluation efforts. To view the toolkit, [click here](#).

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If you have comments or suggestions for future newsletters, please contact [dc\\_sim@dc.gov](mailto:dc_sim@dc.gov).