



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 4th Street NW-Room 1028

Quality Metrics Work Group
April 18, 2016
3:00pm-4:30pm

Community Linkages Work Group
April 20, 2016
2:00pm-3:30pm

Payment Models Work Group
April 21, 2016
3:00pm-4:30pm

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

Recent News

SIM Update: 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 healthcare 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 15, 2016.** Please send the link to your colleagues/members/providers and encourage them to complete the survey.

Consumer Interviews Conducted at Pathways to Housing DC

This week, DHCF conducted one-on-one interviews at Pathways to Housing DC. The organization serves thousands of individuals who are homeless or at risk for homelessness in the District. As previously mentioned, the findings from the consumer engagement activities will be used to inform D.C.'s State Innovation Health Plan (SHIP) under SIM. The SHIP will describe the strategies and methods proposed to transform the structure and performance of the District's entire health system. DHCF appreciates all of the partners that have helped to coordinate consumer interviews to date, including Unity Health Care, Mary's Center, George Washington University Hospital, and Providence Hospital.

Announcements

CMS Finalizes Rule on Mental Health Substance Use Disorder Parity for Medicaid and CHIP

On March 29, 2016, **the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized a rule to strengthen access to mental health and substance use services** for people with Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage, aligning with protections already required of private health plans. The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 generally requires that health insurance plans treat mental health and substance use disorder benefits on equal footing as medical and surgical benefits. The final rule is available in the [Federal Register](#), and more information on behavioral health services in Medicaid and CHIP can be found [here](#).

HHS Proposes Changes to the Rules Governing the Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder Records: Comments due April 11, 2016

The Health and Human Services Department proposed changes that would facilitate health information exchange to support delivery system reform efforts while protecting the privacy of patients seeking treatment for a substance use disorder. The goal of the proposed changes is to facilitate information exchange within new health care models while addressing the legitimate privacy concerns of patients seeking treatment for a substance use disorder. The rule was published in the [Federal Register](#) on February 9, 2016.

CDC Launches 6|18 Initiative: Accelerating Evidence into Action Brings Together Public and Private Players

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) 6|18 Initiative: Accelerating Evidence into Action** is bringing together public and private health care purchasers, payers, and providers to improve health and control health care costs. This innovative effort aims to link prevention to health coverage and delivery with a focus on six high-burden, high-cost health conditions -- tobacco use, high blood pressure, health care-associated infections, asthma, unintended pregnancies, and diabetes. To learn more, visit the [CDC webpage](#).

Events

The **Alliance for Health Reform** and **Kaiser Family Foundation** are hosting a briefing on Medicare Payment System Reforms on **April 11th at 12:00pm** in the Russell Senate Office Building, Room 325. The briefing, "**Medicare Payment System Reforms: What Do We Know?**" will examine what we know so far about the basic models, savings, quality, the impact on patients and the prospects for replication. To register, [click here](#).

The **Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center (MATRC)** is hosting a **Telehealth Summit beginning April 10th through April 12th**. The Summit will be in Cambridge, MD at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort Spa and Marina. During the 2016 MATRC Telehealth Summit, participants will explore how and why telehealth must intersect with both health system transformation and meaningful use in order to successfully impact all three dimensions of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's (IHI) "Triple Aim": improving the patient experience of care (including quality and satisfaction); improving the health of populations; and reducing the per capita cost of health care. For more details, visit <http://matrc.org/summit/>.

Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP will host a webinar, "**The Legal Challenges of Multi-Provider APMs: Minimizing the Risks of the Volume-to-Value Transition**" on **April 19, 2016 at 1:00pm**. During the webinar, participants will find out: How are government and private payers implementing APMs? What are the fraud and abuse, antitrust and other legal implications around value-based contracting arrangements between hospitals and physicians? [Register here](#).

The **Mathematica Center for Studying Disability Policy** is sponsoring a policy forum and webinar on **April 21st at 11:45am**.

The event is titled “New Frontiers in Coordinating Housing and Medicaid Services for People with Behavioral Health Conditions.” During the event, participants will learn about why housing is an important part of the efforts to treat high-need, high-cost Medicaid beneficiaries, and innovative state efforts to better coordinate health and housing services for people with behavioral health conditions. To register, [click here](#).

Resources

CHCS’s Blog on New Opportunities for Medicaid

The President of the **Center for Health Care Strategies, Stephens Somers**, authored a blog titled “New Waves of Opportunity for Medicaid.” In the blog post, Somers highlights three opportunities to further preventive and integrated care for those served by Medicaid, including broad prevention, upstream prevention and intervention for young families, and downstream intervention for high-need, high-cost adult populations. Somers acknowledges that health care interventions only account for a modest portion of health outcomes, and as a result, the social determinants of health must be addressed. To read the full blog post, visit the [CHCS webpage](#).

CHCS’s Brief on Trauma-Informed Care

The **Center for Health Care Strategies** published a new brief titled “Trauma-Informed Care: Opportunities for High-Need, High-Cost Medicaid Populations.” This is the first in a series of resources from Advancing Trauma-Informed Care, a multi-site demonstration project supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and led by the Center for Health Care Strategies. The brief outlines a practical framework for implementing clinical and organizational practices in health care settings to address the complex impact that trauma has on patients and providers. It explores opportunities for improving care, reducing health care costs for individuals with histories of trauma, and incorporating trauma-informed principles throughout the health care organization. Read the full brief [here](#).

Commonwealth Fund’s Publication on Transforming Care

The **Commonwealth Fund** published “**Transforming Care**,” a newsletter that focuses on new models of care, payment approaches, and patient engagement strategies that have the potential to reshape delivery systems to better meet the needs of the nation’s sickest and most vulnerable patients. In the most recent issue, the newsletter looks at companies such as ChenMed, ConcertoHealth, Iora Health, and others that are building new primary care models from the ground up, as well as companies like Aledade and Alignment Healthcare that are helping existing primary care practices reconfigure their operations to better serve complex patients. Read the full publication [here](#).

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If you have comments or suggestions for future newsletters, please contact dc_sim@dc.gov.