

SIM Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday April 15, 2015 10:00 AM

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Charleston

Members in Attendance

Karen L. Bowling

Terri Giles

Sharon Carte

Rahul Gupta

Fred Early

Mike Riley

Ted Cheatham

Sue Johnson-Phillippe

Members Absent

Cindy Beane

Dr. James Becker

Project Management Attendees

Jeffrey Coben

Lesley Cottrell

Nancy Sullivan

Jeremiah Samples

Courtney Newhouse

Secretary Bowling welcomed the committee members and thanked all for their active participation in the SIM project, emphasizing that this provides the opportunity to change how we deliver and pay for health care in West Virginia.

Following introductions, Dr. Coben provided committee members with an overview of the national SIM initiative, and a description of the goals of West Virginia's application. The role of Steering Committee was described.

Dr. Coben described the progress that has been achieved on the project to date. The start date of the project was February 1, 2015. Since that time, the Project Management Team has been meeting weekly, has participated in bi-weekly conference calls with the CMS Project Officer, and has delivered several introductory presentations to the workgroups of the Health Innovation Collaborative. An Updated Operational Plan was submitted on February 28th, and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan was submitted on March 31st. Both of these plans have been approved by CMS without modification. The hiring of two additional full-time staff, a SIM Project Manager and a SIM Project Coordinator is underway and nearly completed.

The Steering Committee reviewed and discussed the stated goals within West Virginia's application. Discussion points included the following:

- Financial goals would be more accurately described as “smarter spending,” or “bending the cost curve.” “Lower cost” might be perceived as an effort to decrease services, and that is not the intent of this initiative.
- Approaches to achieving better care coordination and care linkages need to be fully considered within our SIM Design. This could include, for example, linkages between primary care and public health, primary care and behavioral health, and establishing regional accountable care communities.
- The recent federal announcement regarding future Medicare payment models is relevant, as it establishes specific targets and the types of value-based models that will be utilized by CMS.
- The Committee also began to consider possible needs around consultation and technical assistance, with several members expressing an interest to learn more specifics about what has been tried in the other SIM (Round 1) states.

Secretary Bowling distributed and reviewed the general operating procedures that will be followed by the Steering Committee. The committee agreed to meet monthly. There was further discussion about possibly adding additional members to the committee. Following this discussion, it was agreed that invitations for participation would be extended to the President of the West Virginia State Medical Association and to the Director of the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

Next Steps

A date for the next meeting (in May) will be established, and a schedule for recurring monthly meetings will also be established.

Invitations will be sent to the additional individuals noted above.

An assessment of committee requests for consultation/technical assistance will be performed.

The project management team will draft additional documents for the Committee's consideration at the next scheduled meeting including: a charter for the overall SIM Project; information obtained from the upcoming NGA/SIM meeting in Baltimore; possible workgroup configurations and questions that may need to be addressed as part of the “charge” assigned to each of the workgroups.