

WV Health Innovation Collaborative Newsletter

One Davis Square, Charleston, WV 25301

GOHELP & The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources

Recap of December and January Meetings

Lower Cost: The Lower Cost workgroup met on December 17. Presentations were provided by Bureau of Senior Services Commissioner Robert Roswall on senior services provided by the bureau; Dr. Shirley Neitch of Marshall University on the physician factor in senior care; and Acting Commissioner Cindy Beane and Deputy Commissioner Tony Atkins with the Bureau for Medical Services on Medicaid long-term care services.

Better Health: The Better Health workgroup met on December 16. Stephanie Moore, Associate Director of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease with the Bureau for Public Health provided a presentation on advocating for chronic disease management and prevention. The WV State Health Improvement Plan was also presented, as well as discussion on new projects the group could undertake next year.

Better Care: The Better Care workgroup did not meet in December. The group is working towards identifying the top 10 indicators for the Collaborative to consider in 2015.

Lower Cost: January's Lower Cost workgroup meeting featured presentations from the state's Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCO) on their strategies to help reduce ER utilization and direct individuals to more appropriately leverage primary care and the health care system in general.

Better Health: The Better Health workgroup met on January 20, 2015. Survey results for the group on the most important care indicators to them were evaluated and discussed. An update on the recently awarded SIM grant was also provided, which begins February 2015. The group has also identified three projects they will begin focusing on: identifying evidence-based programming; modifying existing programs for specific populations, and disseminating research findings.

Better Care: The Better Care workgroup also discussed its rankings of care indicators identified in the Better Health survey. In addition, an update on the SIM grant was provided and the group discussed strategies for collecting information about programs offered around the State.

Announcements From Our Partners

WVMI and Quality Insights

The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services Innovation Center will be funding Practice Transformation Networks (PTN) to provide on the ground technical assistance to help primary and specialty care practices achieve the Triple Aim (better health, better care, at lower cost) and thrive in the pay-for-value environment.

The West Virginia Medical Institute (WVMI) & Quality Insights and the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI) are part of a consortium of quality improvement groups that will be collaborating to provide PTN assistance, if funding is awarded. HealthInsight, a well-respected, non-profit, quality improvement organization, will serve as the project's prime contractor at the multi-state level.

Letters of intent for this effort were due January 15, 2015.

State Innovation Model (SIM) Grant Update

The West Virginia SIM grant is scheduled to kickoff February 1, 2015! The grant will focus on developing the state's innovation plan, with emphasis on establishing and maintaining necessary organizational structure, broad stakeholder engagement and participation, and formulation and finalization of a final innovation plan. Three workgroups will serve in the model design process and will consider particular elements of the model to identify and detail. More information will be made available via the Health Innovation Collaborative workgroups and website as the project moves forward.

American Cancer Society



The American Cancer Society has released its 2015 workshop schedule for its “Look Good, Feel Better” program throughout West Virginia, which is designed to teach beauty techniques to women in active treatment to help combat the appearance-related side effects of cancer treatment. Dates are located in the pamphlet provided with this newsletter. **Registration is required.**

Federal Announcements and News

Defining Quality

State Reform has released a new blog discussing “Identifying Value in Multi-Payer Reform.” The blog takes a look at how states define ‘quality’ in evaluating payment models based on that factor. Slides from a National Academy for State Health Policy and the blog can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

A multi-payer payment reform toolkit is also available from State Reform at the following [link](#).

Better, Smarter, Healthier

In a January 26 press release, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced clear goals and a timeline for shifting Medicare reimbursements from volume to value.

HHS has set a goal of tying 30% of traditional, or fee-for-service, Medicare payments to quality or value through alternative payment models, such as Accountable Care Organizations, or bundled payment arrangements by the end of 2016, and increasing this level to 50% by the end of 2018.

To read the full press release, click [here](#).

Beyond a Traditional Payer—CMS’s Role in Improving Population Health

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) plays an important role in improving population health via the health care delivery system. Dr. William Kassler presents a perspective on how CMS is not only a payer for beneficiaries, but also an entity that is committed to improving health through reform.

To read the full story, click [here](#).

Workgroup Meetings

- **Better Health:** Feb. 17, 10:00 am-12:00 pm
- **Better Care:** Feb. 17, 2:00 pm-4:00 pm
- **Lower Cost:** Feb. 18, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Funding Opportunities

West Virginia Clinical and Translational Science Institute Announces New Funding Mechanism for Community-Based Research

The West Virginia Clinical and Translational Science Institute (WVCTSI) has released its Request for Applications (RFA) for community-based clinical and translational pilot projects targeting health disparities in West Virginia and Appalachia.

WVCTSI’s [Pilot Grant Program](#), in coordination with the [Community Engagement and Outreach \(CEO\) Core](#), is requesting applications from community and practice partners for funding up to \$2,500 to support the development or implementation of evidence-informed research and dissemination of quality improvement projects. Requests for funding of up to \$5,000 will be considered with reasonable justification. These CEO mini grant applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

Projects that involve the [West Virginia Practice-Based Research Network \(WVPBRN\)](#) are particularly encouraged to apply. For projects involving the network, researchers must obtain approval from the WVPBRN. For more information regarding the WVPBRN, please contact Adam Baus at 304-293-1083 or via email at abaus@hsc.wvu.edu.

The complete RFA with detailed instructions can be accessed on the [WVCTSI Pilot Grants Program website](#).

Those with questions about the RFA should contact Anne Hatfield, EdD, Research Development Coordinator, at aehatfield@hsc.wvu.edu or 304-581-1963.

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