



WV Health Innovation Collaborative Newsletter

One Davis Square, Charleston, WV 25301

Recap of March Meetings

Better Care: The Better Care workgroup met on April 21, 2015. Marci Kramer with Delmarva and Brian Cunningham with Lewin presented on quality efforts by the Medicaid Managed Care program and services Delmarva provided to Bureau for Medical Services around quality improvement. Amanda McCarty, Bureau for Public Health, also presented on the revised State Health Improvement Plan.

Better Health: The Better Health workgroup met on April 21, 2015. Christina Mullins, Director of the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health for the Bureau for Public Health presented on Home Visiting in WV. The federally-funded program is designed to help pregnant women and families identify resources and develop skills needed to raise healthy children. Amanda McCarty, Bureau for Public Health, also presented on the revised State Health Improvement Plan.

Lower Cost: The Lower Cost workgroup met on April 15, 2015. Mat Kendall of Aledade presented on Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) and how Aledade is assisting providers in establishing ACOs with Medicare. Amanda McCarty, Bureau for Public Health, also presented on the revised State Health Improvement Plan.

For meeting notes, presentations, and other information, be sure to check out www.wvhicollaborative.wv.gov.

Federal Announcements

State Innovation Models (SIM) Evaluation Reports Released

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) released two reports last week on SIM. The first is a Final Evaluation Report on Round 1 Model Design & Pre-Test States, which provides lessons learned from key informant interviews and observations of stakeholder and workgroup meetings. The report also contains a case study for each state as well as a cross-state analysis. Also released was a First Annual Report on Round 1 Model Test States, which provides baseline findings from both qualitative and quantitative data sources implemented for the first six SIM test states. The reports can be located at innovation.cms.gov/Data-and-Reports/index.html.

Medicare-Medicaid Linked Enrollee Analytic Data Source

The Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office is pleased to announce the release of a free, public use file (PUF) version of our more comprehensive Medicare-Medicaid Linked Enrollee Analytic Data Source (MMLEADS). This MMLEADS spreadsheet includes a range of key demographic, health condition prevalence, utilization and spending information, nationally and broken out by state, for full and partial benefit Medicare-Medicaid enrollees, as well as “Medicare-only” and “Medicaid-only (eligible via disability)” enrollees.

The specific purpose of the MMLEADS PUF is two-fold:

- To provide researchers a quick, high-level summary from the MMLEADS(v2) data to guide them as they define their cohorts and study questions for further study via an MMLEADS(v2) data request; and
- To make the high-level MMLEADS summary information accessible and available to those without the resources, time or technical expertise to analyze MMLEADS data (e.g., health and economics student researchers, data scientists, stakeholder groups, policy makers, etc).

This information can be accessed at www.cms.gov/Medicare-Medicaid-Coordination/Medicare-and-Medicaid-Coordination/Medicare-Medicaid-Coordination-Office/Analytics.html.

Meet the Medicaid Medical Unit

Medicaid expansion vastly increased the Medicaid member population resulting in new and higher demands from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services' Bureau for Medical Services (BMS) and providers. As a result of the growing member population, the BMS Medical Unit recently expanded to a team of five medical experts.

Dr. James Becker, MD, BMS Medical Director, leads the Bureau's Medical Unit and delivers his expertise and services to BMS staff and providers. The Unit covers a wide range of medical issues and is involved with coverage decisions, limits and criteria for coverage, individual case reviews, policy development, and pharmacy reviews.

The Unit also helps guide programs such as Health Homes so they run smoothly and effectively to achieve their individual goals.

Most importantly, the Unit gives providers a voice on important issues, which allows the Medical Unit to review the evidence of the effectiveness and cost of services. Dr. Becker knew that the Medical Unit had to grow in order to respond to the larger number of requests as well as handle complex issues that are brought to the Unit's attention from providers.

"Our goal is to help guide coverage decisions in a way that makes the most effective therapies available to the patients who will benefit the most," said Dr. Becker.

His team includes Ken Devlin, Health Psychologist; Paula Hamady, Nurse Practitioner; Dr. Kelly Melvin, Child Psychiatrist; and Betsy Thornton, Registered Nurse. Dr. Becker's team is already working closely with other BMS staff and is eager to team up with providers as well. The wealth of knowledge that each team member has allows the Unit to make effective decisions and handle issues more efficiently.



Pictured from left: Ken Devlin, Dr. James Becker, Paula Hamady
Not pictured: Dr. Kelly Melvin

Save the Date!

Senior Conference, May 19-21, 2015, Cedar Lakes Conference Center, Ripley, WV

WV Health Data Portal 101, July 1, 2015, YWCA, 1114 Quarrier St., Charleston, WV 25301

**To reserve your seat or for more information, contact Amy at WV FREE, info@wvfree.org or 304-342-9188*

May Workgroup Meetings

- **Lower Cost:** May 20, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
- **Better Health:** May 19, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- **Better Care:** May 19, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

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