

**MCO SDOH Learning Collaborative**  
**August 19, 2022 Meeting Notes**

View the recording [here](#).

The SDOH LC met on August 19, 2022 for a presentation on the Pathway Community HUB [model](#) and for an introduction to the 4 sites in Texas.

Laurie Vanhose started the meeting with an introduction to the topic and a welcome to the attendees which include representatives of MCOs, EHF staff, HHSC staff and other learning collaborative members. Shao-Chee Sim with EHF welcomed the attendees and explained EHF's interest in advancing the Community HUB model and is currently supporting the HUBs and supporting an evaluation of the work of the San Antonio HUB – Grow Healthy Together.

Laurie introduced Dr. Sarah Redding, the founder of the Pathway HUB Institute. Dr. Redding provided background on how they started the program in Ohio with community health workers connecting pregnant women to services. The initial effort (called Community Health Access Project) identified over 2000 pathways to track each risk factor of the individuals they were assisting. From 2001 – 2004 this initial project resulted in decreased low birth rates, addressed several non-medical pathways (employment, education, smoking cessation, food security and housing).

Based on this success Dr. Redding created the HUB model. Dr. Redding then provided an overview of the model - it relies on community health workers to help connect individuals in the community to services. The HUB becomes a centralized place for community resources and the community health worker provides case management to help connect the individual with referrals to providers, social services, community based organizations, etc. based on the individual's needs. The model uses a whole person approach.

The model was able to be expanded to other communities and relies on outcome based contracts with payors and care coordination agencies and receives grants. At least 50% of payment is tied to outcomes or completed pathways. Studies from Medicaid managed care organizations have demonstrated a return on investment for members who receive care coordination from a Pathway Community HUB.

The key to the model is CHWs. The key characteristics of the Community HUBs:

- Based in the community/region served
- Only one PCH in a community/region
- Develops a care coordination network
- Uses outcome-based contracting
- Community Advisory Council
- Uses PCHI® Model standardized data collection tools

The PCHI uses 21 Standard Pathways and has training and models on the 21 pathways – ie. employment, food security, pregnancy, housing, immunization, medical home, etc. Dr. Redding also provided an overview of the payment model and there is an example in the slide deck.

Today there are Pathway Community HUBs in 17 states. Dr. Redding then gave an overview of the experience of the model in Ohio which is very mature at this time and is funded through Medicaid MCOs and there is now direct involvement with the Ohio Department of Medicaid. The work of the HUBs in Ohio has resulted in a statewide Community Health Worker Day.

Next each of the Texas based Pathway Community HUBs introduced themselves and discussed their target populations:

Brazos Healthy Communities – Olga Rodriguez provided an overview:

- Texas A&M University Health Center and Project Unity in Brazos County
- Target population is pregnant women with anxiety or mild depression
- Plans to launch in December 2022

Harris County Pathways Community HUB – LaToya Shields provided an overview.

- Targeting Medicaid recipients or Medicaid-eligible adults who are pregnant and have behavioral health risk factors; have a mental illness; or have a substance use disorder
- The Network of Behavioral Health Providers (NBHP) will lead the HUB which consists of more than 40 BH and SUD providers in Harris County
- Proposed to launch on September 30, 2022

Williamson County Accountable Communities – Dorothy Light, United Way of Greater Austin provided an overview.

- Focusing on Health Equity Zones
- Target population is pregnant moms and families with young children
- Partnering with health district, Lone Star Circle of Care, Georgetown Health Foundation, and Ascension-Seton to build a network of care coordination agencies
- Launch date March 2023

Grow Health Together Pathways HUB – Derek Anderson provided an overview.

- Bexar County
- Targeting all underserved communities
- Went live July 1, 2018
- Currently has contracts with CFHP and Superior

Nathan Hoover, Superior, and Dr. Mody-Bailey, CFHP, both spoke to the work they are doing with the Pathway Community HUB in San Antonio. CFHP has a value-based contract and uses the HUB as a wrap for service coordination. They refer more complicated clients to the Community HUB. Both health plans have had great experiences working with the HUB, recommend the model and note that CHWs really do help address barriers clients have to accessing health care.

Laurie Vanhoose asked Dr. Redding what has worked in other states and what are the barriers, etc. Dr. Redding noted that standardization will help and shared the PCHI standard contract – see meeting attachments.

Laurie Vanhoose then facilitated a conversation. Since these are not typical providers and don't enroll as Medicaid providers it is important to find ways to contract with these entities. These services could be value-adds, case management/service coordination services, admin costs, but have asked the state to clarify if these services will fall within quality improvement. Dr. Mody-Bailey noted that the services provided do improve quality of care and we should be able to count as quality. Emily Sentilles – the new Quality Director at HHSC noted in the chat - Thank you for the presentation and HHSC looks forward to working with you all and understanding and supporting these models moving forward. We will continue to explore QI costs and contracting options, too. Dr. Van Ramshorst also stated that he appreciates the MCOs work and the opportunity to learn more about this model of care.

Laurie Vanhooose noted that since these entities consist mainly of CHWs and are not traditional entities billing, contracting, etc. can cause burdens so we would like to follow up with individual meetings with the MCOs and the HUB in their SDA to discuss contracting options, etc.

There was a question in the chat - It would be helpful to know from the MCOs and state the common questions or concerns (guidance on antitrust rules, financing PCH pathways via MLR vs admin) they have for engaging and contracting with PCH entities - or even helping to stand one up in their respective communities.

Nathan Hoover with Superior noted that it requires working through the services to determine if any are allowable Medicaid costs and working with financial staff to figure out what services can be billed and then figuring out how to set up vendor contracts.

There was a note - Love this work! what types of outcomes of interest to payers have been achieved in non-pregnant populations? Has and ROI been calculated for non-pregnant populations?

There was not time to address the final question but please see the power point for existing ROI and EHF is conducting an evaluation of the San Antonio Pathway Community HUB.

The next meeting will be in September and will continue on this conversation with a presentation from the San Antonio Pathway Community HUB and a discussion on CHWs.