

Texas MCO SDOH Learning Collaborative: Webinar Summary

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September 9, 2022
11:30 am – 1:00pm CT

Webinar recording available [here](#)

Community Health Workers and Maternal Health

HHSC Welcome (2:44 in the [recording](#))

- Jimmy Blanton welcomed members of the learning collaborative and thanked them for their ongoing partnership in this effort.
- He shared his excitement to learn more about how the [Pathways Community HUB](#) model is being used in Texas to address non-medical drivers of health.
 - Learn more about HUBs from our [August 19th webinar](#).

Jimmy Blanton, Director, Office of Value-Based Initiatives, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)

Welcome and Introductions (6:29 in the recording)

- Diana Crumley welcomed participants and presenters.
- She presented on the national context about how state Medicaid programs are working to leverage community health workers (CHWs) and other members of the community-based workforce to improve maternal health. Expanding use of this workforce is part of the new White House Blueprint's plan to address the maternal health crisis – which was explored in our [prior webinar](#).
- Diana defined midwives, CHWs, and doulas; all of whom can be part of an expanded maternal health workforce. She explored Medicaid's options to cover these providers through:
 - Creating new Medicaid benefits; and
 - Creating MCO incentives or requirements to address maternal health, expand team-based care, or pay maternal health workers in new ways.
- Diana shared examples from:
 - Pennsylvania's maternity care bundled payment
 - Florida's MCO maternal health requirements
 - Texas's efforts to encourage CHW engagement

Diana Crumley, Senior Program Officer, Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS)

Leveraging CHWs to Improve Birth Outcomes (14:24 in the recording)

- Derek Anderson presented on the Bexar County Community Health Collaborative's work to engage in the Pathways Community HUB model and work with members with high-risk pregnancies.
- The model includes three phases:

Derek Anderson, Director of Community Health and HUB Director, The Bexar County Community Health Collaborative

- *Find* - identify/engage with partners who hire CHWs, identify populations who have social needs and could benefit from connections with CHWs
- *Treat* - the CHW uses model Pathways – standardized tools to identify patient needs and connect them to relevant resources – to create closed loop care processes
- *Measure* - the HUB tracks engagement and shares information with its partners
- Derek also outlined research supporting the Pathways Community HUB model, noting that models across the country have been shown to improve measures of low birth weight, preterm birth, and NICU use. Research has also found a positive financial return on investment.
 - Key aspects of the model’s success include (a) addressing social needs and (b) supporting prenatal care.
- The Growth Healthy Together HUB in San Antonio has served 2,800 people, including 682 pregnant women, since it began in 2018. The HUB currently partners with Community First Health Plans, Superior Health Plan, and is exploring a partnership with Aetna.

Supporting HUBs through VBP (50:00 in the recording)

- Loretta La Point presented on Community First Health Plans’ work to address social needs through its partnership with the Growth Healthy Together HUB.
- The plan trains its staff and providers to address social needs of members and uses population-level resources (e.g., Census data, community health needs assessment) to further identify potential social needs.
- The plan provides low-touch support to some of its members with social needs and refers members (including pregnant women) with more intensive needs to the HUB for connection with a CHW and social services.
- Loretta shared that the plan is currently working on an evaluation process to assess impact of its partnership with the HUB.
- Community First Health Plans pays the HUB through a value-based payment model, where the HUB receives performance-based payment for members who complete a pathway.

Loretta La Point, Director of Health Promotion and Wellness, Community First Health Plans

Q&A (31:24 for Part 1 of Q&A and 1:05:33 for Part 2 of Q&A in the recording)

- Many patients disengage from the HUB after referral to other resources, rather than completing the full Pathway within the HUB model. Partner plans and the HUB are interested in measuring impact of engagement vs. completion of a Pathway, but do not have the data to do so yet.
 - The Grow Healthy Together HUB incentivizes pregnant patients to stay engaged by providing diapers to mothers.
- There are additional HUBs forming in other regions in Texas (see our [August 19th webinar](#) for more details). The Grow Healthy Together HUB is based on Bexar County and will stay within this region and is interested in expanding to neighboring counties.
- There are 21 possible Pathways within the Pathways Community HUB model. These pathways tend to be specific to a particular need (e.g.,

Moderator: Diana Crumley, CHCS

Pathway for people without a medical home, Pathway to address food insecurity) as opposed to being based on a medical condition (e.g., there is no “diabetes Pathway). There is a Pathway specific to high-risk pregnancy, and maternal health is a common focus for new HUBs that are starting to operate in Texas.

- The Grow Healthy Together HUB shares data to the extent possible with its partner MCOs and other funders. Some data is not shared to protect patient privacy.
- Community First Health Plans makes referrals to the HUB through one of two methods. First, they make bulk referrals multiple times per month, where 20-40 patients are a time are referred to the HUB based on internal processes to identify needs. Second, they make individual referrals when the need arises.
 - The HUB is happy to work with partners to set up whatever types of referral processes may work best for their partners.
- Providers do not currently have the option to make referrals, but the HUB is piloting this capability.

Next Steps and Adjourn (1:18:12 in the recording)

*Anne Smithey, Program Officer,
CHCS*

- Anne Smithey highlighted upcoming events as part of the learning collaborative:
 - On October 7th, the learning collaborative will host a webinar focused on addressing SDOH for pregnant women.
 - On October 19th, the learning collaborative will host an in-person meeting in Austin.
- More details about both events will be shared shortly.