



**Title of Design Lab:**

**Financing Community Health Workers (CHWs) through Medicaid: Let's Make it Happen!**

**Topic Champion(s):**

- Michael Rhein, Institute for Public Health Innovation (IPHI)

**Short Summary of session**

**Notes for Collaborative:**

- CMS (Medicaid overseer) changed policy to open up possibility of financing CHWs
- MA is working in area and has strong progress. Had to ensure CHWs felt identity in what they were calling themselves.
- One institute mentioned the angle they're using in that CHWs are an economic development strategy to provide jobs.
- MA, MS and others have some return on investment (ROI) in development on CHWs
- Pitching CHWs as filler for clinics when time and resources are scarce among doctors and nurses
- CHWs direct residents to preventive services (a reimbursable process).
- Difficult to measure impact of work of CHWs often or not enough money to evaluate
- Informal discussions go over better than formal political discussions on this topic
- CDC and HRSA project to increase use of FQHC services and use CHWs to help?
- Some states already have a task force on this topic

**Role for Collaborative:**

- Could share resources and get more information as a group
- Collective messaging- cost effective, role, not taking jobs
- Identify what others, not present, may need in this area if they want to be involved
- Would it help to draft state plan amendment for each state to adapt to their needs to help lobby for support?  
Some states may choose to start with legislation

**Collaborative Composition**

- States that may be involved in credentialing, identifying financing, state plan amendment, etc. and want to talk: MS, MA, MI, PA, DE, LA, DC, MD, VA
- May want to involve CBOs
- Support: NNPHI to possibly coordinate group
- Interest in holding a collaborative of PHIs and perhaps having a few calls to invite national orgs and beyond PHIs

**Goal of Collaborative:**

- This first phase: Share info and resources and learn from experience of group
- Ultimate goal: Medicaid or other payers to pay for CHW services

**Resources to Include in Dropbox:**

- Published study from Sue Polis to send to group on 4:1 investment result paper (Sue Polis)
- NCSL may have a template-build for sample billing (Sara Miller (CO) to add to dropbox?)
- Clearinghouse of resources from ASTHO (Courtney Bartlett (ASTHO) to add to dropbox?)

**Key Takeaway points: (3-5 key points, e.g. reflections on the presentations/discussion)**

1. Group decided on goal of ultimately set up financing of CHWs through Medicaid or another payer
2. Participants in session came in with a good amount of experience already in this topic area with a spectrum of progress.
3. Time and interest is ripe to begin and assess a collaborative among PHIs in this topic
4. Will begin quarterly calls to share information, resources and work together on this goal
5. Interest in holding a collaborative of PHIs and perhaps having a few calls to invite national orgs and beyond PHIs

**Action Steps:**

- If any PHIs want to be involved in this collaborative, talk to Michael Rhein
- Possible support from NNPHI to coordinate the group moving forward
- Interest in holding a collaborative of PHIs and perhaps having a few calls to invite national orgs, beyond PHIs

**Action Items for Collaborative:**

Action Task	Person Responsible	Timeline
Ask non-present PHIs if they'd like to be involved. Michael Rhein will be point person for now.	NNPHI/ Michael	During conference
Identify if NNPHI can provide any support for collaborative or if NNPHI CDC CoAg could be an opportunity for this work. Share update with Michael.	NNPHI staff	By end of May
Set up and share dropbox folder with group	Michael Rhein	June
Set up calls quarterly or so	Michael Rhein	By September