Using Data Analytics to Better Understand State Medicaid Beneficiaries with Serious Mental Illness
Technical Assistance for Medicaid Agencies

Program Overview

Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program (IAP)

The Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program (IAP) is a collaboration between the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS) and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) designed to build state capacity and support ongoing innovation in Medicaid. IAP provides targeted technical assistance to states' ongoing delivery system reform efforts across four priority program areas: (1) substance use disorders; (2) Medicaid beneficiaries with complex care needs; (3) community integration through long-term services and supports; and (4) physical/mental health integration. IAP also provides assistance to states in four functional areas, which IAP sees as the building blocks to delivery system reform: (1) data analytics; (2) quality measurement; (3) value-based payment and financial simulations; and (4) performance improvement.

IAP's Beneficiaries with Complex Care Needs and High Costs (BCN) program area offers technical assistance and resources to Medicaid agencies seeking to design, plan, and implement strategies to improve care coordination for Medicaid BCN populations. As part of this program area, over the last year, IAP focused on adult Medicaid beneficiaries with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and posted two technical resources for Medicaid agencies focused on data analytics.

Components of Technical Assistance for Medicaid Agencies

This year, starting in January 2020, the IAP is offering up to eight months of technical assistance for up to 10 Medicaid agencies that aim to utilize data analytics to gain a better understanding of their adult population with SMI and to help inform related programmatic decisions. This technical assistance opportunity is open to Medicaid agencies at all stages of development, from those just beginning this work to those building on existing initiatives.

This technical assistance includes interactive webinars and coaching assistance. The technical assistance is provided through three inter-related components which will run sequentially. Participating Medicaid agencies can select one or all three to join.

- **Component 1: Build an SMI Population Profile (January – March 2020)**
  - Conduct analyses to further understand state populations with SMI using Medicaid claims and encounters data (demographic, cost, and utilization information)
  - Develop or start developing state Medicaid SMI population profiles
- **Component 2: Leverage External Data Sources (April – May 2020)**
  - Augment state SMI population profiles with external data sources (e.g. corrections, housing data)
  - Navigate challenges in data matching and other SMI data sharing barriers
  - Develop data sharing and use strategies with other state or external data partners
- **Component 3: Consider SMI Data-Informed Delivery System Reform (June – August 2020)**
  - Exchange lessons learned
  - Apply SMI data in the design if a consider delivery system reform initiative

States have the option to participate in one or more of the components depending on their existing SMI analyses to date. Since the three components in this cohort are meant to build on one another, states are encouraged to participate in all three components of the work. However, it is understood that some states may, for example, already have a SMI state-specific population profile, and therefore may only want to participate in components 2 and/or 3.

States are encouraged to complete each components' activities during the component's timeframe. Nevertheless, the coach team is available to support each states' activities throughout the eight months. For example, the SMI population profile is not complete in the first three months, states can use the coaching team and the time during component 2 or 3 to complete the profile.

Overview of Technical Assistance

Specifically, this collaborative learning experience includes:

- A coach assigned to each state team, as well as additional subject matter experts in SMI, data analytics, and Medicaid.
- Regular one-on-one coaching meetings
- A kick-off webinar on January 27, 2020, with all selected states, to create a common understanding of the component's work, confirm expectations, and introduce each state team
- A site visit from each state's coaching team to discuss program goals, objectives, components and activities
- Two webinars per component with experts to review data analytic and sharing strategies for a better understanding of beneficiaries with SMI and that provide opportunities for state-to-state sharing

Selection Criteria and Timeline

IAP seeks to engage Medicaid agencies that demonstrate a commitment to improving services and delivery systems for adult Medicaid beneficiaries with SMI. To help inform the state selection process, each state will be asked to describe any state Medicaid adults with SMI analytic efforts to date, rationale for wanting to develop, refine, or expand their understanding of the adult Medicaid SMI population, and proposed team composition and expertise through completion of the expression of interest (EOI) form. Using information gathered through the EOI, the following criteria will be used to select participating states:

- **Commitment:** Leadership of the Medicaid agency's Project Team Lead who is responsible for the work day-to-day. The proposed Team Lead should be well positioned within the state and supported by the state Medicaid Director to marshal resources for the state's SMI work.
- **Staffing Resources:** An appropriate number of state staff with program knowledge and data analytics expertise who are committed to the full term of the project components and who can begin working on the project shortly after the state is selected. State teams should include representatives which have oversight and access to Medicaid physical and behavioral health services data, particularly services to beneficiaries with SMI. Medicaid agency partnerships with their respective state behavioral health agencies for this project are recommended.
- **SMI Population Focus:** Project to focus on gaining a better understanding of the adult Medicaid SMI populations through data analytics.
- **Data Analytics Capability:** Medicaid agency will dedicate sufficient expertise and resources to support Medicaid-related data analytics for the SMI population.
- **Strategic Alignment with IAP Goals:** Clear articulation of technical assistance needs and the specific outcomes the state wants to achieve with the IAP technical assistance.

States interested in this Medicaid IAP opportunity should note that IAP also offers states more general data analytics technical assistance through the IAP Data Analytics functional area. States selected to participate in the Data Analytics functional area can focus on any population and receive a full range of technical assistance. The next Data Analytics technical assistance opportunity will be announced in January 2020. States are eligible to apply for both opportunities.

Expressions of interest (EOI) forms for the SMI technical assistance opportunity will be accepted between late November and early December of 2019. States will be selected for participation in early January 2020. The eight-month technical assistance activities will occur between late January and August of 2020.

- **December 13, 2019:** Expression of Interest form due
- **December 2019- January 2020:** One-on-one conference calls with individual states to review their EOI forms and discuss their state goals
- **Mid-January:** States selected
- **January 27, 2020:** SMI technical assistance kick-off webinar
- **January 2020-August 2020:** Technical assistance activities, webinars, and coaching
- **August 2020:** Technical assistance ends

How Do Interested States Apply for Technical Assistance?

Interested states are asked to submit the EOI form by midnight (ET) on December 13, 2019 with the subject line "SMI data analytics" to cms.iap.smi@healthmanagement.com. The EOI form can be found online on the IAP BCN web page. Please direct questions to Katherine.Vedete@cms.hhs.gov, using the subject line "SMI data analytic opportunity questions."