

Michigan's Evaluation Plan for the Section 298 Initiative

Conducted by the University of Michigan

The evaluation of the pilots and demonstration project will aim to answer three key questions:

1. **In what ways are the pilots and demonstration project effective in integrating physical health and behavioral health services?**
2. **How does integration of physical health and behavioral health services affect consumers?**
3. **How does integration of physical health and behavioral health services affect cost and quality of care?**

The evaluation team will utilize multiple methods to explore these questions, including:

- **Surveys/interviews with administrators and providers** to elicit their perspectives on topics such as the helpfulness of different integration strategies, barriers to integration, and challenges with meeting the needs of different populations.
- **Surveys/interviews with consumers and caregivers (as appropriate)** to elicit their perspectives on topics such as their ability to get the services they need, difficulties in accessing care, person-centered care, and satisfaction with service delivery. The evaluation team will develop survey instruments for each of the following populations: adults with serious mental illness, adults with substance use disorders, adults with mild/moderate mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbance (SED), and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).
- **"Day in the Life" interviews** with a more limited sample will be conducted to gain more in depth information from consumers regarding their experiences with services in the areas of the pilots and demonstration project.
- **Analysis of administrative and programmatic data** to track over time key indicators of quality (amount and intensity of services, gaps in services, timing of behavioral health services) and cost.

These methods will be informed by input from stakeholders through individual and group meetings, as well as an online feedback mechanism, to solicit a broad array of views on which structure, process, and outcome metrics are most important to evaluating the success of the pilots.

For each method, the evaluation team will measure key outcomes at baseline, midway through implementation, and at the end of implementation. The evaluation team will also identify a comparison group to allow results from the pilots and demonstration project to be understood within broader trends. This comparison group will consist of individuals served in non-pilot or non-demonstration sites and exclude individuals served in the Upper Peninsula, Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties. The evaluation team will generate a series of interim reports that reflect findings from baseline and midpoint analyses for each method as well as a final report that summarizes the key findings across all evaluation methods.