

Weekly Update for the Section 298 Initiative

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has developed this summary to provide an update on recent activities and upcoming events for the Section 298 Initiative. The following update is for the week of [April 23, 2018](#).

Implementation of the Pilots

- On March 9, 2018, MDHHS announced the pilot sites for the Section 298 Initiative.
 - Pilot #1: Muskegon County CMH (dba HealthWest) and West Michigan Community Mental Health
 - Pilot #2: Genesee Health System
 - Pilot #3: Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority
- MDHHS has established a new workgroup to guide the implementation of the pilots. The “Leadership Group” is composed of MDHHS staff and leadership from the Community Mental Health Service Programs (CMHSP) and Medicaid Health Plans (MHP) in the pilot sites. The “Leadership Group” will establish sub-workgroups to address specific issues in regards to implementation of the pilots.
- 25% of the Medicaid population is not enrolled in a MHP for management of their physical health services. However, the Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHP) manage the specialty behavioral health benefits for this sub-population.
 - Given that this group is not enrolled in a MHP, it is not possible to integrate the behavioral health and physical health benefits through the MHP for the purposes of the pilots.
 - MDHHS has been evaluating options to manage the specialty behavioral health benefits for the unenrolled population during the pilots. MDHHS has determined that the best option is to pursue a contract with a single, existing PIHP. MDHHS has published a concept paper which outlines the department’s research on this issue and defines current expectations for how the specialty behavioral health benefit will be managed in the pilots. This concept paper is available on the 298 website.

Implementation of the Demonstration Project

- MDHHS received a draft proposal from the Total Health Collaborative (TTHC) in Kent County. TTHC will be submitting a detailed project plan to MDHHS by early June.

Implementation of the Policy Recommendations

- On April 16, 2018, MDHHS published a progress report and set of detailed plans that outline the current status of implementation for the various recommendations. The progress report and related plans are included on the Section 298 website.
- MDHHS has published a crosswalk of the recommendations from the Section 298 Initiative with the recommendations from the House C.A.R.E.S. Task Force, Michigan Inpatient Psychiatric Admissions Discussion, and Diversion Council. This crosswalk is posted on the MDHHS website.

Evaluation of the Pilots and Demonstration Project

- The University of Michigan (UM) evaluation team has been working on identifying performance metrics for the evaluation of the pilots and demonstration project.
- MDHHS and UM are also reviewing current reporting requirements for the PIHPs, MHPs, and CMHSPs to identify how information from current reports can be used during the evaluation process.
- MDHHS and UM are beginning the process of soliciting input on the performance metrics from representatives of the current system and external technical experts.

Stakeholder Engagement

- MDHHS will be providing the following updates this week:
 - MDHHS Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting (4/24/18)
 - Autism Council Meeting (4/27/18)

For questions about the weekly update, please contact Jane Pilditch at jpilditc@mphi.org. For general questions about Section 298, please contact MDHHS-298@michigan.gov.