

Weekly Update for the Section 298 Initiative

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has developed this weekly report to provide an update on progress, recent activities, and information about upcoming events for the Section 298 Initiative. The following update is for the week of [April 9, 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
- On April 6, 2018, MDHHS hosted a summit of the pilot participants to discuss the next steps for implementing the pilots.
- 25% of the Medicaid population is not enrolled in a Medicaid Health Plan (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 population 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 intends to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) in April 2018 to solicit responses from interested and qualified PIHPs currently operating in Michigan. 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 within the next few weeks.

Implementation of the Policy Recommendations

- MDHHS has reviewed and analyzed all of recommendations from the final report of the 298 Facilitation Workgroup.
- MDHHS is preparing to publish a progress report on implementing the workgroup recommendations in early April.

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 Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans, Medicaid Health Plans, and Community Mental Health Service Programs to identify how information from these 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 will be meeting with the Section 298 Facilitation Workgroup on April 13 to update the group on progress of the policy recommendations.

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