

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 [January 2, 2019](#).

Implementation of the Pilots

- On March 9, 2018, MDHHS announced the pilot sites for the Section 298 Initiative.
 - Pilot #1: HealthWest and West Michigan Community Mental Health
 - Pilot #2: Genesee Health System
 - Pilot #3: Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority
- MDHHS has established a workgroup to guide implementation. The “Leadership Group” is composed of (1) the Executive Director of each Community Mental Health Service Program (CMHSP) and the CEO of each Medicaid Health Plan (MHP) in the pilot sites and (2) MDHHS representatives.
- The Leadership Group has established six sub-workgroups to develop plans for implementing the pilots. The sub-workgroups will meet and report their findings back to the Leadership Group.
 - Finance Sub-Workgroup
 - Public Policy Sub-Workgroup
 - Reporting Sub-Workgroup
 - Technology Sub-Workgroup
 - Case Management Sub-Workgroup
 - Utilization Management Sub-Workgroup
- The Leadership Group is continuing discussions regarding the duration and scope of the pilots, and MDHHS is collaborating with the Leadership Group to develop a communication to the legislature regarding these issues and potential solutions.

The Unenrolled Population

- 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. MDHHS is not able to enroll these individuals in the MHPs for the purposes of the pilots due to federal regulations.
- MDHHS will be issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to select a single existing PIHP to manage specialty behavioral health benefits for the unenrolled populations across the three pilot sites.

- The selected PIHP will also contract with the CMHSPs within the pilot sites for the delivery of specialty behavioral health services and supports.
- MDHHS will issue an RFP to select a single existing PIHP no later than January 2019.

Implementation of the Demonstration Project

- The Total Health Collaborative has submitted an updated operational and memorandum of understanding to the department.
- MDHHS will be meeting with the Total Health Collaborative in early 2019 to discuss the next steps for operationalizing the demonstration project..

Implementation of the Policy Recommendations

- In April 2018, MDHHS published a progress report and set of detailed action plans for implementing the 76 recommendations from the 298 Facilitation Workgroup.
- MDHHS reviewed the progress report with several groups of stakeholders including the 298 Facilitation Workgroup. MDHHS updated the action plans based upon stakeholder feedback and recent progress on implementing the recommendations. MDHHS posted the updated action plans to the department website as part of publishing the recent progress report.

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 will be conducting outreach to stakeholders to solicit input on the potential performance measures.
- The UM evaluation team has also published an updated overview of the evaluation process, which can be found on the department's website at www.michigan.gov/stakeholder298.

Stakeholder Engagement

- MDHHS is not scheduled to provide any presentations this week.

For questions about the update, please contact Jane Pilditch at jpilditc@mphi.org. For general questions about the Section 298 Initiative, please contact MDHHS-298@michigan.gov. For more information about the Section 298 Initiative, please visit the department's website at www.michigan.gov/stakeholder298.