

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 [July 30, 2018](#).

Legislative Update

- The Michigan legislature recently passed an appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2019. This bill contains new boilerplate language for the Section 298 Initiative and was signed by the Governor on June 21, 2018. The bill can be accessed [here](#).

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 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” has begun meeting and is in the process of establishing sub-workgroups to address specific aspects of the design and implementation of 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 group is not enrolled in a MHP, it is not possible to integrate the behavioral health and physical health benefits through the MHPs for the purposes of the pilots. MDHHS is therefore is not planning to fully integrate the unenrolled population into the Medicaid Health Plans as part of the Section 298 Initiative.
 - MDHHS has been evaluating options to manage the specialty behavioral health benefits for the unenrolled population during the pilots. MDHHS issued a concept paper on the management of specialty behavioral health services for the unenrolled populations during the pilots, and this paper indicated that the best approach for managing the benefits for this population would be contracting with a single PIHP across the three pilot sites. The concept paper is posted on the MDHHS website at www.michigan.gov/stakeholder298.
 - MDHHS is currently reviewing stakeholder input on the concept paper and related options, and the department will be conducting outreach to stakeholders during the summer to discuss next steps.
- MDHHS has announced a new target date for pilot implementation of October 1, 2019. MDHHS will be engaging the members of the Leadership Group and other stakeholders in a discussion about the impact of the amended timeline on the pilots.

Implementation of the Demonstration Project

- MDHHS received a draft proposal from the Total Health Collaborative (TTHC) in Kent County in January 2018 and received a follow-up report on April 30, 2018.
- The members of the Total Health Collaborative will complete a Memorandum of Understanding and will submit an operational plan to MDHHS within the next few months.

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 will be conducting outreach to stakeholders during the summer 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 will be providing the following updates this week:
 - PIHP CEO meeting on Thursday, August 2, 2018

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.