

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 [May 14, 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” has begun meeting and 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 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 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.
 - MDHHS had indicated as part of the concept paper that the department planned to issue a RFP to select a single PIHP to manage the benefits for the population. MDHHS will not be issuing a RFP in April or May as originally communicated. MDHHS is currently reviewing stakeholder input on the concept paper, and the department will be conducting education and outreach to stakeholders over the next few weeks to discuss next steps on this issue.
- MDHHS has been working with the pilot participants to develop and implement the pilots as specified under the FY 2018 Section 298 boilerplate. While MDHHS and the pilot participants have made substantial progress in the implementation process, MDHHS and the pilot participants will not be able to implement by the pilots by the original target date of October 1, 2018. MDHHS has therefore proposed an amended 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 progress report on April 30, 2018.
- 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 these 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:
 - There are no presentations scheduled for this week.

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