



## Better Health Together

*This electronic newsletter will be produced weekly to provide high-level updates on the work of the DC Innovation office under the State Innovation Model (SIM) grant as DC develops the State Health Innovation Plan (SHIP). We look forward to your input on our activities and milestones as we work to improve healthcare for DC residents.*

### SIM Work Group Calendar

All Work Group Meetings will be held at 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW-Room 1028

*Quality Metrics Work Group*  
March 28, 2016  
3:00pm-4:30pm

*Quality Metrics Work Group*  
April 18, 2016  
3:00pm-4:30pm

*Community Linkages Work Group*  
April 20, 2016  
2:00pm-3:30pm

*Payment Models Work Group*  
April 21, 2016  
3:00pm-4:30pm

*Care Delivery Work Group*  
April 25, 2016  
3:00pm-4:30pm

### Recent News

#### SIM Work Group Update

The **Community Linkages Work Group** met on March 24<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the use of a universal assessment tool to gather data on the social determinants of health (SDOH) in order to facilitate person-centered care through improved information sharing. The idea of a universal assessment tool for SDOH was presented during the last SIM Advisory Committee meeting as a method for better integrating health and social services. During the work group meeting, participants suggested building upon current assessment tools, such as the one used by DHS for TANF recipients, to create a standardized list of questions that could be utilized by multiple service providers. For summaries and meeting materials, [click here](#).

#### Consumer Engagement: Nearly 100 Interviews Complete

DHCF and its partners have been doing survey research with D.C. residents to learn about their experience in the healthcare system. To date, nearly 100 one-on-one interviews have been conducted in Wards 2, 7, and 8 at Mary's Center, two Unity Health Care sites, and George Washington University Hospital. The findings from this survey research will be used to inform D.C.'s State Innovation Health Plan (SHIP) under SIM. The SHIP will describe the strategies and methods proposed to transform the structure and performance of the District's entire health system. DHCF appreciates all of the partners that have helped to coordinate consumer interviews.

## Announcements

### CMS Approves Alabama's Delivery System Reform Waiver

The **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services** approved Alabama's request for a waiver under **Section 1115 of the Social Security Act**. The waiver enables the transition of the State's Medicaid delivery system from fee-for-service to Regional Care Organizations (RCOs), risk-bearing, provider-led organizations established in five regions of the State. While the waiver approval is recent, Alabama has been planning implementation of the RCO program since 2013 when the State first authorized reform. To read more, click [here](#).

## Events

The **Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center (MATRC)** is hosting a **Telehealth Summit beginning April 10<sup>th</sup> through April 12<sup>th</sup>**. The Summit will be in Cambridge, MD at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort Spa and Marina. During the 2016 MATRC Telehealth Summit, participants will explore how and why telehealth must intersect with both health system transformation and meaningful use in order to successfully impact all three dimensions of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's (IHI) "Triple Aim": improving the patient experience of care (including quality and satisfaction); improving the health of populations; and reducing the per capita cost of health care. For more details, visit <http://matrc.org/summit/>.

The **Mathematica Center for Studying Disability Policy** is sponsoring a **policy forum and webinar on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:45am**. The event is titled "New Frontiers in Coordinating Housing and Medicaid Services for People with Behavioral Health Conditions." During the event, participants will learn about why housing is an important part of the efforts to treat high-need, high-cost Medicaid beneficiaries, and innovative state efforts to better coordinate health and housing services for people with behavioral health conditions. To register, [click here](#).

## Resources

### HCPLAN's Blog on Core Quality Measures and Alternative Payment Models

The **Health Care Learning and Action Network (HCPLAN)** released a blog titled "Core Quality Measures Have Value for Alternative Payment Models." The blog highlights the work of the Core Quality Measures Collaborative (CQMC), which released seven core measure sets to support accountability and quality improvement in selected areas of practice. The goals of CQMC are to refine measures, reduce burden, and recognize high value measures. Read the blog post on the [HCPLAN webpage](#).

### University of Buffalo Medical School Learning Collaborative on "Hot Spotting" for Super-Utilizers

The **University of Buffalo Medical School** released an article summarizing a six-month learning collaborative to practice "hot spotting" to identify super-utilizers and develop interventions to address their needs and more effectively provide care. Four medical students received a national grant from the Association of American Medical Colleges, Primary Care Progress, and the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers. The team partnered with the Jericho Road Community Health Center in Buffalo to identify super-utilizer patients and identify obstacles, establish goals of care and develop sustainable, cost-effective solutions. The full article is available [here](#).

### National Governors Association's Medicaid Health Care Purchasing Compendium

The **National Governors Association** released the **Medicaid Health Care Purchasing Compendium** (Compendium), which is a reference guide or toolkit for states to use when purchasing health services. It is intended to be both a primer for policymakers looking for an overview of a topic, and a source of detailed information for Medicaid agency staff on key

purchasing issues. Readers should reference topics of interest. To access the full compendium, [click here](#).

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If you have comments or suggestions for future newsletters, please contact [dc\\_sim@dc.gov](mailto:dc_sim@dc.gov).