

Iowa Department of Public Health

✓ The Check-Up

An update on issues and ideas Related to health reform in Iowa

The Check-Up is a health care reform newsletter designed to keep interested Iowans up to date on the progress of health reform initiatives. The Check-Up features updates on activities of the Iowa Department of Public Health's Office of Health Care Transformation and partner updates, which is a key point-of-contact for health care reform initiatives within IDPH including Accountable Care Organizations, Health Benefits Exchange, Chronic Disease Management Initiatives, and Patient-Centered Medical Homes/Health Homes. The Check-Up also features health reform councils as authorized by [HF 2539 \(2008\)](#) including activities related to the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) ([HR 3590](#)) and other activities related to the focus of the councils.

October
2014

Websites

[Office of Health Care Transformation](#)

[Patient-Centered Health Advisory Council](#)

[Health Insurance Marketplace](#)

[Iowa e-Health](#)

[Direct Care Worker](#)

Office of Health Care Transformation (OHCT)

The OHCT is the key point-of-contact for ACA related initiatives at IDPH including Health Insurance Marketplace, Accountable Care Organizations, Patient-Centered Medical Home/Health Homes, prevention and chronic care management initiatives, community utility and care coordination. The mission of the OHCT is to promote community care coordination and advance the patient-centered transformation of the health care system, which will improve care and reduce cost. The overarching goals of the OHCT are convening stakeholders, building relationships and partnerships, streamlining efforts, presenting to and offering technical assistance to a variety of organizations including outside stakeholder groups, Local Public Health Agencies and Maternal and Child Health grantees to prepare for ACA implementation.

[Patient-Centered Health Advisory Council](#) - The Patient-Centered Health Advisory Council last met on June 18th. The agenda and presentations can be found here:

- [Agenda](#) 
- [IHAWP Healthy Behaviors Program PPT](#) 
- [Dental Wellness Plan PPT](#) 
- [CTG Medication Therapy Management PPT](#) 
- [Outcomes MTM Handout](#) 
- [Community Care Coordination PPT](#) 
- [State Innovation Model PPT](#)

Next Meeting: October 15th, 2014 from 9:30 – 2:30 at the Iowa Hospital Association

OHCT Partner News-

[Community Care Coordination Project](#)- Six Iowa regions have been selected as recipients of State funding to improve patient care coordination for underserved populations. Regions will receive funding to develop or implement an integrated health care delivery approach. This approach empowers patients by building local partnerships and connecting patients with community resources to address barriers faced in accessing care, including barriers such as transportation, housing, literacy, access to food, lack of a primary care provider and the inability to access medications.

Implementation Grants

Implementation initiatives will deploy a Community Care Coordination team to support primary care practices in providing services for their highest need patients by addressing gaps in care, transitions of care, and connection to community resources.

- **Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa** – to serve Cerro Gordo County –(\$200,000)
- **Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital** - to serve Cass, Mills, and Pottawattamie (\$150,000)
- **Seasons Center** - to serve Clay and Sioux counties (\$200,000)
- **Webster County Health Department** – to serve Buena Vista, Calhoun Webster, Hamilton Humboldt, Pocahontas, Sac, and Wright counties (\$200,000)

Developmental Grants

Developmental initiatives will assess and develop a plan to provide assistance to local primary care and other health care providers to meet the unique needs of their highest risk patients, establish connections with other community resources, and provide education to their community partners about Community Care Coordination.

- **Allen Memorial Hospital** to serve Black Hawk County (\$50,000)
- **Dallas County Nursing Services** to serve Dallas County (\$88,784)

[State Innovation Model \(SIM\)](#)- Iowa's SIM Testing Grant materials are now available including the [project abstract](#), [Governor's letter of support](#), [stakeholder letters of support](#), [project narrative](#), and [project operational plan](#). The application was submitted on July 18, 2014, and CMS anticipates announcing the awards October 2014. Click [here](#) for more information.

Iowa Health and Wellness Plan-

August Enrollment Maps Released: The county-based enrollment maps for the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan have been updated to reflect enrollment through the end of August 2014. [Access the updated maps here](#).

Iowa Wellness Plan Benefits Coverage List: A new [list of covered benefits for the Iowa Wellness Plan](#) is now available.

Iowa Medicaid ACOs: IME has signed agreements with the following four ACO's:

1. IowaHealth+

- All Care Health Center (Council Bluffs)
- Community Health Centers of Southeastern Iowa, Inc. (West Burlington, Columbus City, Keokuk)
- Community Health Centers of Southern Iowa, Inc. (Leon, Lamoni, Albia, Centerville, Chariton, Corydon)
- Crescent Community Health Center (Dubuque)
- Peoples Community Health Center (Waterloo, Clarksville)
- Promise Community Health Center (Sioux Center)
- River Hills Community Health Center (Ottumwa, Centerville, Richland)
- Siouxland Community Health Center (Sioux City)

2. Broadlawns Medical Center - a community hospital serving Polk County and Central Iowa.

3. University of Iowa Health Alliance, LLC - comprised of health systems, county hospitals, RHCs, and Federally Qualified Health Centers across Iowa and include systems like, Genesis Health System, Mercy Health Network, and the University of Iowa Health System.

4. UnityPoint Health Partners - comprised of UnityPoint Clinic, Trimark Physicians Group (Fort Dodge), Central Iowa Hospital Corporation (Blank Children's) and St. Luke's Health Resources (Sioux City).

Office of Health Care Transformation (cont.)

Iowa Studies and Technical Assistance

IDPH has been working with a few different projects to study how the ACA will impact public health. One is with NORC at the University of Chicago. They are conducting case studies on different states to assess the impacts of the ACA on state and local public health programs funded by HHS and are exploring opportunities and concerns among states related to ACA implementation. The study should be finalized soon. Iowa also received a technical assistance opportunity from the National Maternal/Child Health Workforce Development Center. Iowa will be participating in technical assistance and training focusing on Title V and health care reform.

Health Insurance Marketplace

2015 Open Enrollment Information

- Open Enrollment for 2015 starts **November 15th 2014** and ends on **February 15th 2015**.

Medicaid Enrollment Continues Year-Round

There is no enrollment period for any Medicaid program, including the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan. Individuals can continue to apply through the Iowa DHS by visiting <https://dhsservices.iowa.gov/> or calling the DHS Contact Center at 1-855-889-7985. [Learn more about Iowa Medicaid Enrollment Here](#)

Certified Application Counselor (CAC) and Navigator Recertification Information- CMS recently issued [guidance](#) on training, certification, and recertification requirements for Navigator and CACs.

HHS Announces Navigator Awardees- On Monday, September 8, HHS announced \$60 million had been awarded to 90 organizations in states with federally-facilitated and state partnership Marketplaces for the consumer assistance Navigator program. Three organizations in Iowa received grants that will run through September 7, 2015.

- **Visiting Nurses Services of Iowa**
- **Planned Parenthood of the Heartland**
- **Genesis Health System**

New Premium Grace Period Information- CMS released [guidance](#) regarding premium grace periods:

Q- What happens if a consumer is late with a monthly health insurance premium payment?

A- It depends on whether they receive advanced premium tax credits. For people receiving the tax credits, if a payment is missed, insurers must provide a 90-day grace period where consumers pay their premium balance and avoid having their coverage terminated. However, the grace period only applies if an individual has paid at least **one** month's premium. If the outstanding premium payments are not paid in full by the end of the 90-day grace period, the insurer can terminate coverage. During the first 30 days of the grace period, the insurer must continue to pay claims. After that, the insurer can stop paying claims received *during* the grace period, which means the enrollee may be responsible to cover any health care services they receive during the second and third months if they fail to pay the amount owed before the end of the grace period. Insurers are supposed to inform health care providers when someone's claims are being held. This could mean that providers will not provide care until the premiums are paid up so that they know they will be paid. People not receiving tax credits get a much shorter grace period, usually around 30 days. [For more information click here.](#)

New Auto Enrollment Information - HHS recently proposed that the majority of consumers receiving premium subsidy assistance will be automatically reenrolled in the same plan unless they elect otherwise during the 2015 open enrollment period. Those automatically reenrolled will receive the same dollar amount subsidy for 2015 that they did in 2014. In most cases this will be less than if they went through the full "redetermination process" The final premium subsidy will be reconciled with their 2015 tax return. The CMS fact sheet is available [here](#) and the final rule is available [here](#).

Iowa e-Health



IHIN adoption continues to grow, as more hospital systems and ambulatory clinics sign-up for services. There are currently 542 sites enrolled for IHIN services. The e-Health team continues to work with enrolled participants to get technical connections made and encourage utilization of IHIN's main services: Direct Secure Messaging, Patient Query, and Public Health Reporting.

The Iowa e-Health team is working with several health systems in Iowa to co-sponsor "Care Coordination Events" to build IHIN knowledge and drive IHIN adoption. The first "Care Coordination Event" was held on September 23, 2014 at Palmer Lutheran Health Center in West Union, Iowa. Over 40 attendees came to the event to learn about the IHIN and how to use it to improve patient care.

The Iowa e-Health Executive Committee and State Board of Health approved expanded use of Direct Secure Messaging for Treatment, Payment, Health Care Operations and Public Health Reporting for all Participant types, including payers. This change is specifically related to Direct Secure Messaging and does not change the restriction limiting the use of patient look-up to Treatment only.

Currently, the IHIN Privacy and Security Policies, approved by the State Board of Health in November of 2012, are undergoing a full review with the Privacy and Security Workgroup with a goal of re-approval by the Executive Committee in October, 2014 and the State Board of Health in November, 2014.

Next Meetings of the eHealth Advisory Council:

- **December 5, 2014 from 10:00-2:00 at Mercy Medical Center, Des Moines**

Direct Care Worker Initiative

The Direct Care Workforce Initiative is a program within IDPH that coordinates activities related to improving direct care professional education and recognition in Iowa. As part of the initiative and with state and federal funding, the Department and the College of Nursing at the University of Iowa developed *Prepare to Care: Iowa's Direct Care and Support Curriculum*. The training is Iowa's first-ever comprehensive, cross-discipline curriculum for direct care professionals in a variety of settings. It includes a Core (introductory) training, five advanced training modules, and three advanced level certificates. The Iowa Legislature charged IDPH and the Direct Care Worker Advisory Council with making the curriculum available, educating Iowans about its benefits, and promoting its use statewide. The curriculum was developed by diverse stakeholders, including employers, community college representatives, and direct care professionals.

Direct Care Advisory Council Met in September

The Direct Care Advisory Council provides recommendations and input to IDPH and has been central to the Direct Care Workforce Initiative since 2005. The Council reconvened on September 18, 2014, to consider the priorities and direction for the Initiative. With the curriculum developed and launched, the attention shifts to supporting the instruction, promoting use of the *Prepare to Care* curriculum, and expanding access to the training statewide.

Among the updates were reports on the Personal and Home Care Aide State Training (PHCAST) grant, which ended its four-year grant cycle on September 30. It was funding through this federal grant that allowed the curriculum to be developed, piloted, and evaluated. Evaluation data continue to show the effectiveness of the Prepare to Care curriculum using both quantitative and qualitative measures.

Direct Care Worker Initiative (cont.)

Instructor Trainings Continue

The Direct Care Workforce Initiative continues its work to make the *Prepare to Care* training available statewide, as directed by the legislature. Free training for instructors is available, and there are now a total of 158 trained instructors across the state. They come from community colleges, provider agencies, and include a handful of direct care professionals. More instructors are needed to ensure access to *Prepare to Care* training statewide. The next instructor training will be held in Ankeny on October 28-30. Spring 2015 training is planned, though dates and locations have not yet been announced. To learn more about the training competencies, benefits of the curriculum, and how to become an instructor, visit our website at www.iowapreparetocare.com. Curriculum development, technical assistance, and instructor training is led by Anita Stineman, PhD, RN, Associate Clinical Professor at the University of Iowa College of Nursing.

Core Training Available Online at No Cost

Any new or incumbent direct care worker can take the *Prepare to Care* online Core training module free of charge through a partnership between IDPH, The University of Iowa College of Nursing, and the Upper Midwest Public Health Training Center. Successful completion of the online course makes students eligible to enroll in other *Prepare to Care* advanced training modules. The course is an introduction to direct care and trains students in communication and interpersonal skills, documentation, person-centered support, infection control, mobility assistance and worker safety, and professionalism. It takes approximately six hours to complete online, and students are able to 'pause' and return to the course later. To access the course, go to <http://directcare.training-source.org/>. To learn more about *Prepare To Care*, check out our website [here](#). Note: The Core is also available as in-person training for those who prefer this method, but costs vary based on the instruction setting for the in-person training.

In the Know

The Direct Care Workforce Initiative wants you to have the latest information and updates on the *Prepare to Care* training and the Initiative. Angie Doyle Scar has served as the project manager for the Initiative since late May. She and Anita Stineman, Curriculum Director, are bringing information about the training statewide.

If you are interested in having someone speak to your group or visit with you individually, please let us know. We recently have met with leaders in the Iowa Association of Community Providers, Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging, and others. Likewise, we are interested in reaching out to groups through conferences and other gatherings as well. Information tables and exhibits were popular in June at the Iowa Alliance on Home Care conference and in September at the Iowa CareGivers' Magic Moments annual conference. Let us know about upcoming events in your community or statewide. To keep up to date on progress and activities, check out our website at www.iowapreparetocare.com for information and to sign up for the e-updates. Contact directcare@idph.iowa.gov if you have questions or would like to be involved in the project.