



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Office of the Secretary
Olympia, Washington 98504

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Medicaid Transformation Project Waiver Team

Washington Health Care Authority

Via email: Medicaidtransformation@hca.wa.gov

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) appreciates all that the Health Care Authority has been doing to engage stakeholders and partners in development of Medicaid waiver transformation project ideas. We are excited that you received so many ideas (180!) that demonstrated many types of partners (communities, public health, managed care systems, health and social service providers, state organizations, advocates) thinking together about how they could really transform our health delivery systems. We understand that at this time, independent consultants are reviewing project ideas, identifying themes, and identifying key strategies and components to be included in the development of the initial project toolkit framework which will be discussed with CMS. Since you are theming and combining components of project ideas, our comments will not be related to any specific project ideas, but to broader themes and alignments.

- At the federal level, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is prioritizing six high-burden health conditions with 18 effective interventions in its 6118 Initiative (<http://www.cdc.gov/sixeighteen/>) in an effort to improve health and control health care costs. There is significant overlap between submitted project transformation ideas and the high-burden health conditions of this initiative, including tobacco use, high blood pressure, asthma, unintended pregnancy, and diabetes. The evidence-based interventions are ones that happen within clinic settings and out in communities, and this was also reflected in transformation project ideas. We recommend that the toolkit reflect alignment with CDC's initiative and interventions. Some of the focus areas of the initiative also overlap with the Prevention Framework, upon which the Plan for Improving Population Health is being based, so this is an opportunity for further alignment.
- The theme of physical and behavioral health integration for both adults and children came through clearly in project ideas; this is also an area of focus for many of the Accountable Communities of Health (ACHs) and an alignment area for the Practice Transformation Support Hub. We recommend that this theme be reflected in the transformation project toolkit.

- DOH is very interested in redesign of the health delivery system as related to mental health and substance abuse prevention and care, and there were numerous project ideas that demonstrated that this interest is shared by other partners. We support the reflection of this type of redesign in the transformation project toolkit.
- There were numerous project ideas associated with care coordination/care transitions/care navigation. We recognize that these activities are important to achieving the Triple Aim and would like to see the opportunity to support this type of project reflected in the transformation project toolkit.
- Across project ideas, there was interest in developing workforce to better connect people to opportunities to achieve health, both in clinic and community settings (community health workers, peer mental health counselors, etc). Expansion of care teams could contribute to more opportunities to achieve health equity, so we are interested in having this reflected in the transformation project toolkit.
- There were also project ideas that had a focus on interventions in the home (for new mothers, or kids with asthma); these types of interventions help us address social determinants of health and we would be interested in seeing them reflected in the transformation project toolkit.
- We continue to recognize the ACHs as central to the transformation work, and would like to see the transformation menu reflect opportunities for them to support their regional health priorities as well as have all ACHs align behind a common focus area.

We are looking forward to seeing and providing input on the initial project toolkit framework in the next several weeks.

Sincerely,

John Wiesman

John Wiesman, DrPH, MPH
Secretary of Health
Washington State Department of Health