

Senate
Finance Subcommittee on Health and Medicaid

Ohio Commission on Minority Health
2020-21 Budget Testimony

Thursday, May 16, 2019

Good afternoon Chairman Hackett, Ranking Minority Member Thomas and esteemed members of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health and Medicaid. My name is Sarah Redding and I'm the co-developer of the Pathways Community HUB model and a preventive medicine physician in Mansfield.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide information in support of increasing funding to the Ohio Commission on Minority Health. This funding will help bring the certified Pathways Community HUB (HUB) model to scale in Ohio communities that are experiencing health disparities and high infant mortality rates.

The Pathways Community HUB is a nationally certified, evidence-based, peer-reviewed, pay-for-performance care coordination model. This model has received recognition from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The Pathways Community HUB Model is designed to specifically target the most at-risk individuals in a community. Pathways are the tools used to track each identified health, behavioral health or social issue through to a measurable completion or outcome. This approach provides infrastructure in communities to link together care coordination agencies and eliminate duplication of services. Payment is based on value and not volume or activities, and the five Ohio Medicaid managed care plans currently contract with HUBs for payment for Pathways.

The Pathways Community HUB Institute (PCHI) promotes accountable care through the certification of HUB organizations. HUBs are required to use formal, standardized processes in the delivery of community-based care coordination services to community members.

Ohio is ranked 40th, overall, in the nation for infant mortality and is ranked 49th in the nation for African American infant mortality (CDC, 2018). Ohio's Black 2017 infant mortality rate was 15.6 per 1,000 live births, which is nearly three times the White infant mortality rate of 5.3 per 1,000 live births. The Pathways Community HUB model is one of the evidence-based approaches that can improve birth outcomes.

The first publication showing the health impact and cost savings was in the Journal of Maternal and Child Health. In Richland County, the Pathways approach demonstrated a \$3.36 short-term and \$5.59 long-term return on investment for every dollar put into the program. This published, peer reviewed article demonstrated a 60% reduction in low birth weight over four years.

In 2018, Buckeye Health Plan conducted a retrospective cohort study of over 3,700 deliveries from 2013-2017 in the Toledo HUB service area. Care coordination through the HUB combined with traditional health plan care management lead to a lower total cost of care in baby's first year of life. The return on investment was reported as 236% with the greatest overall PMPM cost savings (\$403) during the first year of life for babies born to the highest risk mothers. In addition, the study highlighted that high-risk mothers in a HUB service area where the member was not receiving care coordination services were 1.55 times more likely to deliver a baby needing Special Care Nursery or NICU care compared to high risk mothers enrolled in the HUB. The March of Dimes reports the average cost of a NICU admission to be \$76,000, and babies born before 32 weeks gestation have charges exceeding \$280,000.

In the Pathways Community HUB model, a comprehensive risk assessment is completed. Each medical, social and behavioral health risk is tied to a nationally standardized Pathway. At least 50% of payments in contracts are directly tied to Pathway completion – or elimination of a risk factor. This accountability is crucial to the success of the model. HUBs do not provide care coordination, but contract with existing organizations in the community that employ community health workers. The CHWs identify and engage at-risk community members and partner to confirm all barriers to care are removed. HUBs also prevent duplication of services. The CHAP HUB based in Mansfield tracks which women are enrolled in Help Me Grow, Moms and Babies First, Medicaid managed care or other programs and confirms that there is no duplication of effort. This allows our region to be efficient and effective with providing accountable care coordination services to any woman at risk of poor birth outcomes.

The Ohio Commission on Minority Health has championed the replication and expansion of the Pathways Community HUB model in Ohio to improve health equity. Increased funding to the Commission will allow more high-risk mothers and babies to receive care. Thank you for the opportunity to share information on the Pathways Community HUB model with you today.

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