



Testimony in Support of Ohio Commission on Minority Health Budget

May 6, 2021

Dayton Regional Pathways HUB

Dayton, Ohio

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Good morning Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Minority Member Antonio, and esteemed members of the Senate Health Committee.

As the Ohio Legislature wrestles with policy changes and budgetary decisions to improve the health of Ohioans, we support the Ohio Commission on Minority Health Funding and other funding to expand the potential impact of the Certified Pathways Community HUBs and Community Health Workers.

In 2020, the Dayton Regional Pathways HUB launched in partnership with health systems, public health, social service providers and other community agencies to improve the health outcomes and address barriers to equitable care for our most at-risk residents. The Dayton Regional Pathways HUB includes multiple care coordination agencies that employ community health workers and other care coordinators, who work with residents to identify their greatest risks and manage them one by one. This partnership is critical as we work to improve the infant mortality rate in Montgomery County, where outcomes and disparities continue to impact our most vulnerable populations.

The Dayton Regional Pathways HUB is fortunate to join a strong network of HUBs in the state of Ohio, where resources and support are always available. As we continue through HUB certification, we are supported by those HUBs, as well as the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, the Medicaid Managed Care Plans, and others who have leveraged their state budgets to enable HUBs to grow. The ripple effect of your support from two years ago is that Ohio's HUBs operate a network of 65 agencies that employ 192 Community Health Workers to serve over 4,000 Ohioans! Each HUB is an independent and unique organization, reflecting the needs of its community. Our ability to work together, across the state, is because we share the Pathways Community HUB Model.

The Pathways Community HUB Model provides a structure flexible enough to meet individual and diverse needs, while at the same time providing a firm and rigorous process. This process maintains fidelity to the Pathway model and allows outcomes to be evaluated. Each HUB has a network of care coordination agencies. These community agencies employ Community Health Workers (CHWs) who use this evidence based, peer reviewed model to build trusted relationships. Once they have established this relationship, they provide education, support, and connections to resources and health care services to the client in order to reduce risk factors. As described by the model creators

Drs. Mark and Sarah Redding, "In the HUB model a comprehensive assessment of risk is completed and each medical, social or behavioral health risk is tied to a nationally standardized Pathway." Payment is earned when a Pathway is completed successfully and an outcome is achieved. This is an important part of the model; ensuring that outcomes for clients, not just hours worked, are the foundation of the HUB.

The Pathways Community HUB model is also recognized by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality as a data-driven approach to identifying and addressing risk factors at the individual and community levels. Upon enrollment, every client meets with a community health worker (CHW), who completes a comprehensive risk assessment. Each risk is translated into a "pathway," risks are addressed one at a time, with clients helping to determine priorities. Pathways are tracked through completion in the electronic health information database, and this comprehensive approach and heightened level of accountability leads to improved outcomes and reduced cost, according to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

The Dayton Regional Pathways HUB primarily serves either the uninsured or those enrolled with Medicaid health plans. As a HUB, we provide accountability through reporting to funders and other stakeholders like the Ohio Commission on Minority Health on behalf of the agencies and community health workers within the network. **With continued support of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, we look forward to continuing to grow our impact in our community.**

With each client we serve we take a step toward realizing a better community for our neighbors, friends, and family. The continued financial support of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health and others will allow us to continue to expand this model and the positive impact in our community. We support:

- Increasing the budget of the Ohio Commission of Minority Health to allow existing HUBs to serve more counties in their service areas and start new HUBs in SE Ohio and other areas with health disparities not served by an existing HUB
- Requiring Medicaid to provide HUB services for all enrollees recommended by a licensed professional (adding adults and maternal enrollees, not just pregnant)
- Dedicating funds awarded to plans to pay for HUB outcomes and requiring plans to share cost savings/pay for performance incentives with HUBs
- Funding Community Health Worker training



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