

## 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 will feature updates on activities of the Office of Health Care Transformation, 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.

February – May  
2014

### Websites

[Office of Health Care Transformation](#)

[Patient-Centered Health Advisory Council](#)

[Health Insurance Marketplace](#)

[Iowa e-Health](#)

[Direct Care Worker](#)

[Community Transformation Grant](#)

## 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, presents to and offer 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 March 14<sup>th</sup>. The agenda and presentations can be found here:

- [Agenda](#) 
- [Public Health and the Pioneer ACO PPT](#) 
- [Community Care Coordination PPT](#) 
- [NASHP Article- Supporting Iowa Rural Provider Capacity Through Community Care Teams](#) 
- [Heartland Rural Physician Alliance PPT](#) 
- [Partnership for Patients PPT](#) 
- [Health Home-SIM-Iowa Health and Wellness Plan PPT](#) 

**Next Meeting: June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 9:30 – 3:00 at the Iowa Labs Facilities, Ankeny**

### OHCT Partner News-

**Community Care Coordination Project-** [Senate File 446](#) allocated \$1,158,150 to the Iowa Primary Care Association to be used for the development and implementation of a statewide regionally based network (often times referred to as community utility) to provide an integrated approach to health care delivery through care coordination that supports primary care providers and links patients with community resources necessary to empower patients in addressing biomedical and social determinants of health to improve health outcomes. Care Coordination links primary care providers, specialists, behavioral health providers with non-health social service entities to create a seamless transition of care as patients interact with several providers. The Patient-Centered Health Advisory Council had made a recommendation to pursue a community utility model in Iowa and the Office of Health Care Transformation is a key partner in the development of this plan. Contracts of \$300,000 each were awarded to **Webster County Public Health** and **Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa**. The Webster County initiative is comprised of a six county region including: Webster, Hamilton, Pocahontas, Calhoun, Wright and Humboldt Counties. Mercy Medical Center's project concentrates on Cerro Gordo County.

- NASHP released an issue brief highlighting the project: [Supporting Iowa Rural Provider Capacity Through Community Care Coordination Teams](#)
- Community Care Coordination Website: <http://www.ianepca.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=107>

**State Innovation Model (SIM)-** The SIM is an effort funded by CMS and led by Iowa Medicaid Enterprise to seek a multi-payer Accountable Care Organization (ACO). The first step in implementation is the completion and submission of the [State Healthcare Innovation Plan](#). This document was submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in the end of December 2013. It outlines Iowa's approach to ACOs, research and stakeholder input received, and lays the groundwork for the next steps. For more information about Iowa's SIM project click [here](#).

### **Iowa Health and Wellness Plan-**

**White Paper- Healthy Behaviors Financially-Based Rewards-** A new white paper has been released outlining the details of a specific component of the Healthy Behaviors Program, under the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan. The Healthy Behaviors program includes the contribution waiver, and another piece focused on providing additional member rewards for the completion of healthy activities. IME welcomes comments and feedback on the program from our stakeholders. To submit comments, feedback, or questions, please contact [DHSIMEHealthandWellnesPlan@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:DHSIMEHealthandWellnesPlan@dhs.state.ia.us).

### **White Paper- Health Risk Assessment (HRA) Tool**

A health risk assessment (HRA) is one tool the IME will invest in to identify and influence social determinants of health such as access to health care, healthy behaviors, socioeconomic factors, and the physical environment that collectively impact the health of the community. The HRA may also be completed as part of the Healthy Behaviors program. Completion of the HRA will count as one of the required activities that will allow a member to be exempt from the required premium payment in the next year of enrollment. Access the white paper [here](#).

### **ACO Agreements Signed**

IME has signed agreements with two large ACOs to encourage healthy behaviors and improve health outcomes for thousands of Iowans who receive assistance under the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan. The IME has two major entities, University of Iowa Health Alliance LLC and UnityPoint Health Partners, signed up to be ACOs for the Iowa Wellness Plan, effective April 1, 2014. [Learn more here](#).

**March Enrollment Maps:** The Iowa Health and Wellness Plan enrollment maps for March can be accessed [here](#).

### **Dental Wellness Plan**

The [Dental Wellness Plan](#) will provide dental coverage for all Iowa Health and Wellness Plan members beginning May 1, 2014.

**Mark Your Calendar- Upcoming MAAC Meeting to Include Public Forum:** The spring 2014 Medical Assistance Advisory Council (MAAC) meeting will include a special public comment forum specifically related to the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan. During the forum, individuals and organizations will have the opportunity to share comments on the program. The Iowa Health and Wellness Plan public comment forum will be held on May 21, 2014, from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. The regularly scheduled MAAC meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

## Office of Health Care Transformation (cont.)

### Iowa Studies and Technical Assistance

Iowa will be working with a few different projects to study how the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will impact public health. One is with NORC at the University of Chicago and 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. Another one is with 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.

### New Study- Factors Affecting Iowa Dentist Participation in Medicaid

To better understand the capacity for Medicaid enrollee to receive dental care from private practitioners, a survey was conducted by the University of Iowa Public Policy Center with all private dentists in Iowa to determine their level of participation in Medicaid and their attitudes toward the program and treating underserved populations. Access the report here: [http://ppc.uiowa.edu/sites/default/files/evaluation\\_of\\_medicaid\\_final.pdf](http://ppc.uiowa.edu/sites/default/files/evaluation_of_medicaid_final.pdf)

### NACCHO Resource for Public Health Agencies

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) health reform website provides a one-stop to education, information, peer support, and general resources that will assist local health departments to navigate health care reform. Access the site here: <http://www.naccho.org/topics/healthreform/>

## Health Insurance Marketplace

### Enrollment Information

#### **Medicaid Enrollment Continues Year-Round**

Though the open enrollment period has ended for the Health Insurance Marketplace, 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 Department of Human Services. [Learn more about Medicaid enrollment in this release.](#)

**Open Enrollment for 2015 starts November 15<sup>th</sup> 2014 and ends on February 15<sup>th</sup> 2015.**

#### **How can consumers get coverage outside of Open Enrollment?**

Outside open enrollment, consumers can enroll only if they have certain life events that give them a special enrollment period. Click [here](#) for more information and a list of qualifying life events. Below is more information:

- [Consumer Fact Sheet](#)
- [Assister Tips for People “In Line”](#)
- [Assister Tips for Complex Cases](#)
- [Guidance for Issuers on People “In Line”](#)
- [Guidance for Issuers on Complex Cases](#)

**Hardship “Exemptions”** from paying the individual responsibility payment:

Consumers may qualify for a “hardship” exemption if they have circumstances that affect their ability to purchase health insurance coverage. Click [here](#) for more information about hardship exemptions, a list of qualifying circumstances, and links to the application forms.

## Iowa e-Health



IDPH sponsored legislation (LSB 5306) during this year's legislative session to expand the allowable use of the IHIN to include healthcare payment and operations use of the IHIN patient look-up (query) tool. Even with the expansion, no additional uses would be allowed until specific approval for the exact group and purpose was received from the Privacy and Security Workgroup, Advisory Council, and State Board of Health. The bill did not pass this year, and the department will need to re-evaluate for possible submission again next year.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Iowa eHealth Summit, "Transform in 2014", is scheduled for June 24-25, 2014, at the West Des Moines Marriott. The event, which is co-sponsored by Telligent and Iowa Medicaid Enterprises and Iowa eHealth, will highlight efforts across the state to incorporate health information technology as a tool to transform healthcare. Several keynote speakers will open the Summit on June 24<sup>th</sup> including ePatient Dave. The morning keynote speakers will be followed by breakout sessions on such topics as quality improvement, data privacy and security, and Meaningful Use. On June 25<sup>th</sup>, the focus will turn to health information exchange, including a speaker panel discussion of regional health information exchange efforts and health IT leadership perspectives from Iowa health systems. For more information or to register for this premier event, visit Telligent's News/Events page on their website at [www.Telligent.com](http://www.Telligent.com).

The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and Henry County Health System are now using the IHIN's Patient Look-Up functionality. Several other hospital systems, including Mercy Health Network - CHE Trinity, Unity Point, Decatur County Hospital, and Burgess Health Center have completed technical testing and are working to go live shortly with Patient Look-Up. Broadlawns Medical Center finished their testing also and will move in to production in May. Genesis Health Systems is working to complete their technical testing. Additionally, 484 clinics and hospital locations across the state are at various stages of connecting to the IHIN with 1000 active users on the IHIN's Clinical Portal using Direct Secure Messaging.

### Next Meetings of the eHealth Advisory Council:

- **June 25, 2014 from 12:30-4 at the West Des Moines Marriott**
- **August 1, 2014 from 10-2 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 the Iowa Department of Public Health 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.

### Instructor Trainings Continue

In order to meet the legislative charge of making the *Prepare to Care* training available statewide, the Direct Care Workforce Initiative has been hosting free instructor trainings. During the fiscal year between July of 2013 and June of 2014, instructors were trained in Sioux City, Waterloo, Davenport, and Des Moines, with a total of 146 instructors trained to date. Five more instructor training dates are expected to be released soon, and will take place between June 2014 and June 2015. To learn more about the training competencies, benefits of the curriculum, and how to become an instructor, visit our website at <http://iowadirectcare.wikispaces.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.



Anita Stineman teaching a group of instructors in Ankeny on March 13, 2014

## Direct Care Worker Initiative (cont.)

### [Free Online Training Available](#)

The *Prepare to Care* online Core training module was officially launched on January 20, 2014. It was developed through a partnership between IDPH, The University of Iowa College of Nursing, and the Upper Midwest Public Health Training Center. 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. The Core online course is great for new workers as well as incumbent workers who are interested in a refresher. It takes approximately six hours to complete online, and students are able to 'pause' and return to the course later. Successful completion of the online course makes students eligible to enroll in other *Prepare to Care* advanced training modules. To access the course, go to <http://directcare.training-source.org/>. To learn more about *Prepare To Care*, check out our website [here](#).

### [Ambassador Training Coming Up](#)

The Direct Care Workforce Initiative Ambassadors are important voices in Iowa communities who serve as local spokespeople for both the *Prepare to Care* curriculum and the overall Initiative. Anyone can become an Ambassador by completing an application and joining the network. Ambassadors undertake a variety of activities, including hosting community information sessions, sharing information with colleagues, meeting with local employers and policymakers, and writing letters to the local newspaper. The Initiative regularly hosts training for new and existing ambassadors, and the next orientation is being held on May 16, 2014 in North Liberty. A range of topics will be presented at the orientation training that relate to the Initiative, the *Prepare to Care* training, and the role of ambassadors.



Direct Care Workforce Initiative Ambassadors Anthony Wells, Elizabeth Fishler, and Adam Drawbaugh at the Iowa CareGivers 3 Ps in a Pod conference in Davenport on March 25, 2014

If you are interested in becoming an ambassador, or are currently an ambassador who has not yet completed orientation, we hope that you will join us for this training! The in-person orientation will take place on May 16, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the North Liberty Community Library, 520 W. Cherry Street, North Liberty. If you have not yet filled out an ambassador application, and are interested in becoming an ambassador, please apply [here](#) **prior** to the training. For more information, please e-mail Erin Drinnin at [directcare@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:directcare@idph.iowa.gov).

### [The Initiative Out and About](#)

The Direct Care Workforce Initiative staff have been traveling and attending conferences and meetings across the state. Erin Drinnin, Project Manager of the Initiative, and Anita Stineman, Curriculum Director, presented at the Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health in Ames April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Initiative staff have also been present at all three of Iowa CareGivers' 3 Ps in a Pod regional conferences in March and April. Erin presented to the Iowa Rural Health Association, and staffed an exhibit booth at the Association of Iowa Workforce Partners' annual conference in April.

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 <http://iowadirectcare.wikispaces.com/> for information and to sign up for the e-update. Contact [directcare@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:directcare@idph.iowa.gov) if you have questions or would like to be involved in the project.

# Community Transformation Grant (CTG)

## Health Navigation Program

One of the Iowa CTG's strategic directions focuses on clinical preventive services, and the 25 grantee counties have continuously worked to implement related changes within their communities. In Dallas County, a Health Navigation Program - funded through support by Iowa Collaborative Safety Net Medical Home Grants, Mid Iowa Health Foundation, United Way of Central Iowa, and the Iowa CTG - has established a formal referral system as a result of CTG technical assistance by the Iowa Primary Care Association. After CTG provided community referral project training, the Mercy Clinics now consistently refer patients to the Health Navigation Program and receive information back about the referrals from Dallas County Public Health. Formal referral systems are now also in place for several health care organizations including Unity Point, Dallas County Hospital, the Free Clinic, Primary Care, and private practice physicians. In addition to health care providers, community agencies can also refer individuals to the Health Navigation Program, and county residents can also self-refer.

The Health Navigation Program connects patients with local services that meet an array of needs such as housing food assistance, enrolling in public programs, medication assistance, behavioral health, wellness options, and other needs. As the innovator of the Health Navigation Program, Dallas County Public Health continues to improve and expand the program to better serve residents in Dallas County while also providing a best practice model for other communities.

A toolkit was developed for other communities interested in replicating the program in their area. You can download a copy of the toolkit at [www.idph.state.ia.us/CTG/ClinicalPreventiveServices.aspx](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/CTG/ClinicalPreventiveServices.aspx) under the Resources section.

## New Resources Available!

The Iowa Community Transformation Grant has recently developed two new resources, and both are available for download on our website under the Resources section.

- The Importance of Daily PE in Iowa Elementary Schools – This document focuses on the importance of daily physical education class in shaping the health of children. Tips, local school examples, and helpful resources are provided within this publication. <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/CTG/HealthyEating.aspx>
- Complete Streets-Benefits, Design Elements, Community Resources - This resource is helpful for communities and other interested parties who are interested in making design improvements for better walking, biking, and transportation opportunities. <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/CTG/SafeAndHealthyEnvironments.aspx>

## Prevention Impacts Simulation Model (PRISM)

To help health agencies better plan and evaluate interventions, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded the creation of the Prevention Impacts Simulation Model (PRISM). PRISM is a large systems model used to simulate trajectories for health and cost outcomes for the entire U.S. population from 1990 to 2040.

The PRISM web-based tool helps users make informed intervention decisions by modeling the likely impacts of intervention strategies on population health. By synthesizing the best available evidence from multiple sources, PRISM:

- Models individual and combined interventions;
- Estimates short- and long-term population health trends;
- Estimates the cost effectiveness of current and proposed program activities;
- Estimates future costs averted.

Interventions modeled are in several broad areas including: medical care (14 interventions), smoking, nutrition and weight loss, physical activity, emotional distress, and particulate air pollution. Interventions act through a range of channels including access, price, promotion, and regulation. Diseases and conditions modeled in detail are heart disease, stroke, diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, and obesity. PRISM also accounts for cancers and respiratory diseases related to smoking, obesity, poor nutrition, and physical inactivity. PRISM reports summary measures of mortality and years of life lost, as well as consequent medical and productivity costs of chronic diseases and conditions.

The PRISM model was developed initially for the CDC-funded Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) activities. Currently, the PRISM model is only offered to CTG awardees. PRISM will be released publically but to date, there is not a timeline for this release.