

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): Approach for Transforming the Medicaid Delivery System in the OCH Region

December 4, 2017

This FAQ summarizes the approach Olympic Community of Health (OCH) is pursuing for transformations in the Medicaid delivery system in Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap counties. **Our approach is guided by a recognition that true system reform is advanced by motivated providers willing to transform their practice, integrate new workflows, improve health equity, and forge new partnerships all in service to our community.** The region shares a vision for a healthier, more equitable three-county region through a delivery system that facilitates:

1. Accessible, patient-centered primary care that is well integrated with behavioral health and dental services
2. Effective linkages between primary care, social services and other community based service providers
3. Common data metrics and shared information exchange
4. Provider adoption of value-based payment contracts

1. What is the Medicaid Transformation Project (MTP)?

In January 2017, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved a Section 1115 Waiver for the State of Washington, which OCH refers to as the Medicaid Transformation Project (MTP). Washington's five-year contract (2017-2021) with CMS authorizes up to \$1.5 billion in federal funds to support regional initiatives for transforming healthcare and other support services.

2. How will MTP funds be distributed?

These funds are referred to as **Delivery System Reform Incentive Program/Payment/Pool (DSRIP)** and are a vital tool to transform the Medicaid delivery system to care for the whole person and use resources more wisely. The Medicaid delivery system is defined as clinical (e.g., physical, mental, and substance use treatment) and non-clinical (e.g., housing and social services) providers for the Medicaid population. DSRIP funds will be administered by OCH through a financial executor to clinical and non-clinical partners who agree to participate in the MTP. **DSRIP is not a grant.** It is a performance-based incentive program for earning funds through achievement of milestones and outcomes. These projects must be self-sustaining by the end of the MTP in 2021.

3. What is the role of Olympic Community of Health (OCH) as an Accountable Community of Health (ACH) in the MTP?

OCH is one of nine Accountable Community of Health organizations in the state. OCH includes Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap Counties as well the Sovereign Nations of the Hoh, Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Makah, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Quileute and Suquamish Tribes. ACHs organize around community-based decisions on health needs and priorities and how best to address them without duplicating services. ACHs forge relationships and agreements with regional partners to develop, implement, and monitor transformation projects under the MTP.

4. What are the key elements OCH is using to operationalize the MTP in the region?

a. Implementation partners

An implementation partner is an organization within the three-county OCH region that has committed to implementing transformational activities and reporting to OCH through 2021. This commitment includes an approved **change plan, signed agreement**, and a signed **shared change plan** compact agreement with the **natural community of care**. Implementation partners are eligible to earn DSRIP payments from the financial executor if they meet their contractual reporting requirements and eventually, targeted benchmarks.

Implementation partners are required to register their organization with the financial executor in order to receive payment and will be required to share reporting metrics with OCH as defined in the signed agreement and change plan. The financial executor, PCG, is a company contracted by the WA State Health Care Authority that will distribute DSRIP funds to implementation partners at the direction of OCH. The financial executor is in the process of developing a web portal with the following functions: 1) a registration process for implementation partners, 2) a payment distribution module for OCH to distribute DSRIP funds to implementation partners, and 3) reporting and monitoring capabilities.

Organizations that do not meet the requirements of implementation partners can still participate as partners in the natural community of care.

b. Natural communities of care (NCC)

A NCC is a group of partners that serve the same population due to geographical proximity, natural referral patterns, and collaborative service agreements. Implementation partners within each NCC will meet regularly throughout the MTP. Some NCCs may choose to form an oversight committee or steering committee. All organizations, coalitions, and Tribes are invited to participate in the formative NCC convenings (January to February 2018) and provide input into the shared change plan. For non-implementation partners, the benefit of participating in your NCC convenings is shared learning, networking, and informing the shared commitments of implementation partners under the MTP. There are no costs to participating in your NCC.

c. Shared change plan

A shared change plan is a compact agreement between implementation partners within a NCC outlining shared expectations such as information sharing or care coordination that will meet the goals of the MTP.

d. Change plans

A change plan is a description of an implementation partner's intended transformational activities to meet the goals of the MTP. It forms the scope of work for the standard partnership agreement.

e. Standard partnership agreements

A standard partnership agreement is a contract between each implementation partner and OCH outlining mutual expectations between parties throughout the course of the MTP.

5. How do I get involved?

Contact support@olympicCH.org or visit www.olympicCH.org.

6. What is the role of OCH in supporting implementation partners during the MTP?

OCH will convene regular NCC meetings and regional meetings to discuss progress and share best practices. OCH will either provide direct project management or support project management internally within the NCC to support the transformational activities under the MTP.

Other FAQ Resources from the Washington Health Care Authority

7. [Glossary of terms](#)
8. [Project Plan](#)
9. [Accountable Communities of Health](#)