

MAINE HEALTH CARE INNOVATION: AN OPERATIONS PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE REFORM

Maine believes its people can deliver informed, effective, integrated health care for less money and do it by 2016. During the next three years, an unprecedented partnership among physical and behavioral health providers, community health professionals, public and private insurers, data and system analysts, workforce developers, economists, public health leaders, and Maine people will put this belief to the test through the Maine Innovation Model. Federal partners are confident in its potential and have funded Maine as well as five other states to implement their state level health care innovation reform plans.

The Maine Innovation Model intends to achieve three goals: improve the health of Maine's population, improve the experience Maine patients have with their health care, and reduce the total cost of care. The model has a foundation in successful, independent health care initiatives, the promising results from community-based demonstration projects, and evidence-based strategies that effectively empower consumers with long-term health conditions. The power of the innovation, however, comes from the concurrent application of existing strategies with enhanced infrastructure investments within a shared and articulated commitment to accountability, transparency, and quality.

Advancing health care reform in Maine is a complex and complicated endeavor that engages a public-private governance body, three multi-disciplinary workgroups, and policymakers, patients, and providers in all sixteen counties. The Steering Committee is comprised of state-level leaders in health, public health, health technology, finance, and service delivery. The three workgroups reflect the Triple Aim¹ objectives to 1) advance population health, 2) improve the experience of care, and 3) reduce health care costs. Their activities focus on developing the physical and behavioral health workforce, applying social and financial incentives, leveraging existing resources and initiatives, and collecting and using cost and quality outcome data to inform practice, policy, and payment. Success, however, will be measured only when all partners, including patients and providers, demonstrate a shared ownership of this reform.

The Operations Plan for the Maine Health Care Innovation Model is the guidebook to help Maine achieve success and transform health care. This Plan outlines the organizational structure for transparent reporting and communication; it details the needed actions, deliverables, and milestones of state agency leadership, the governance committee, and workgroup members.

The Operations Plan is a working document. It is intended both to facilitate adherence to project workplans as well as to encourage flexibility and adaption as activities and evaluation reveal unforeseen opportunities or results. Maine has a proven history of innovation; following the Operations Plan should foster new collaborations, make better use of Maine's social and financial capital, and offer other states a roadmap to advance sustainable and meaningful health care reform.

¹ IHI