

OPEN MINDS On-Line News*Mental Health & Chemical Dependency Services*

Eleven Minnesota Counties to Start Medical Home Program For Consumers With Addictions in July 2010

Eleven Minnesota counties are preparing to start a chemical health care home pilot project in July 2010. The pilot will include suburban Washington County and ten non-urban counties working in collaboration — Dodge, Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, and Winona. The goal is to test a service delivery redesign that allows counties to use state and county chemical dependency treatment funding more flexibly for a subset of clients who have not been successful in achieving their individual recovery goals through the existing service options or have specialty needs that cannot readily be addressed with available treatment or services. The pilot project provides counties with a capitated payment of state and county money that can be used to fund the services of a Navigator—a case manager—in addition to those services historically available to eligible individuals. The Navigator’s purpose is to reduce harm of substance use disorders and promote recovery by assuring clients’ access to an integrated array of health care and social services.

Planning for the pilot was approved by the 2009 legislature and involved a workgroup of state and county human services staff convened in the summer of 2009. Recommendations from the planning workgroup culminated in a report entitled “Report to 2010 Minnesota Legislature: State-County Chemical Health Care Home Pilot Project Proposal.” The pilot is slated for implementation following final authorization by the Minnesota Legislature. Individuals eligible to participate in the pilot must be eligible for state chemical dependency treatment funding, have met certain criteria on a chemical use assessment tool, and must have had two or more treatment episodes in the last two years. As described in the report, the pilot will have the following aspects:

- Each pilot county will receive a capitated amount of funding that can be used flexibly to develop and implement a comprehensive, outcome-driven treatment case plan for eligible clients that includes services offered through the primary health, social services, mental health, and chemical health systems.
- The capitated funding used to support the pilot project is comprised of state and county money and does not include federal Title XX block grant dollars.
- The pilot counties will assume full financial risk for service costs beyond the capitated payment and are authorized to reinvest funds left from the capitated amount after providing services so they can exercise risk-based strategies.
- Provider organizations with whom counties chose to contract will be reimbursed for services on a fee-for-service basis.
- Services will be coordinated by a Navigator—who will provide intensive case management and referral for participants whose needs are not addressed through traditional chemical dependency treatment programs.

A link to the full text of “Report to 2010 Minnesota Legislature: State-County Chemical Health Care Home Pilot Project Proposal” may be found in *The OPEN MINDS Circle Library* at www.openminds.com/circlehome/eprint/indres/011510mhcdmncchemicalhchome.htm.

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