Cross-Agency Partnerships for School Health: Medicaid & Education

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Trust for America’s Health (TFAH)

- Non-profit, non-partisan
- Evidence-based policy & advocacy
- Promotes optimal health for every person and community and makes the prevention of illness and injury a national priority
Objectives

- Provide an overview of cross-agency collaboration between Medicaid and education
- Summarize the different models of providing care in schools
- Introduce the Healthy Students, Promising Futures (HSPF) learning collaborative
- Discuss existing policy levers to expand school-based health services

Health & Academics

Percentage of high school students who engaged in select health behaviors, by type of grades earned (mostly A's, B's, C's, or D's/F's) — United States, National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015
Health & Academics

- **1 of every 7 students** is chronically absent (2013-14 school year)
- Chronic absenteeism is linked to poor academic achievement, lower graduation rates, poor socioemotional outcomes

  **Health conditions contributing to absences:**
  - Asthma
  - Oral Health
  - Obesity
  - Mental and Behavioral Health

Why Medicaid & Education?

- Meeting kids where they are
  - Children spend about **one-third** of their time in school
- Opportunity to increase EPSDT rates
  - Only **58 percent** participation among 42 million individuals birth to age 21 eligible for EPSDT (2015)
- Chance to improve Medicaid quality and access measures
  - Shift towards managed care
  - Mandatory reporting of Child Core Set in 2024
School Health Services Models

- School-Employed Providers
- Mobile Vans
- Telehealth
- Partnerships with Medicaid Providers

School-Employed Providers
- School nurses
- Social workers
- OT/PT/Speech
- Counselors
- Psychologists and other mental health professionals
School Health Services Models

Partnerships with Medicaid Providers

- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- School-Based Health Centers
- School-Linked Providers
- Hospitals
- Health Departments

Innovative Delivery Models

- Telehealth
  - Increase direct access to providers for rural communities or schools in provider-shortage areas
  - Reduce out-of-classroom time for students (and out-of-work time for parents)

- Mobile Clinics
  - Reduce out-of-school time for children
  - More economical than physical facility or temporary on-site clinic
  - Allow Medicaid providers to serve multiple schools
Healthy Students, Promising Futures

Create healthier students by increasing access to school-based health services and promoting healthier school environments

- Federal policy support
- Building partnerships and cross-agency teams
- Assessing need, data collection and data sharing
- Identifying innovative strategies
Healthy Students, Promising Futures

Key lessons learned to date:

1. Get the right people to the table
2. Explore all models of service delivery
3. Establish common vocabulary
4. Bring in other cross-sector partners early
5. Clearly define your population of interest (i.e. K-12, Pre-K, etc.)
6. Focus on partnership first, then health topic
7. Align metrics across assessments when possible
8. Advocates can be your friends
9. Harness and adapt the lessons from other states
10. There is no one size-fits-all solution!

Policy Levers – Free Care

- 2014 CMS Guidance
  - Allows Medicaid reimbursement for physical and behavioral health care services provided to ALL Medicaid-eligible students
  - Previously limited to only students with IEP
  - In some cases, Medicaid State Plan Amendment needed
- Opportunity to:
  - Increase rates of screening and treatment under EPSDT
  - Increase school-employed providers and develop new partnerships between schools and Medicaid providers
Policy Levers – Child Core Set

- Change in reporting
  - Child Core Set reporting currently voluntary
  - In 2024, shifting to mandatory reporting on all measures of Child Core Set
- Schools provide access point and opportunity to improve quality measures as well as other MCO incentives

Policy Levers – Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

- Needs assessments
  - Title I, Part A
  - Title IV, Part A
- Professional development
  - Title II, Part A
  - Title IV, Part A
Thank You

Please visit TFAH's website at:
http://healthyamericans.org/

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