Maximizing Medicaid Options for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbance

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Genesis of Project



- Since 1992, 121 CCMHSP grants and cooperative agreements
- Goal to sustain systems-of-care
- Medicaid largest payer of public mental health services
- Medicaid is a third party payer similar to private insurance

Goals



- Describe how grantee sites use Medicaid as part of a larger strategy to achieve sustainability
- Describe these practices in the context of states' Medicaid Plans
- Disseminate findings to system of care communities

Medicaid



• Medicaid is a jointly managed federal and state program to provide health care to low income Americans

Federally mandated Medicaid services

- Inpatient hospital care
- Clinical services
- Outpatient hospital services
- Physician services and services of other licensed professionals
- Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment

- Rehabilitation services
 - Used by many states to offer a wide range of services in community settings as opposed to more medical settings

Clinic Option

• Reimburses for preventive, therapeutic, diagnostic services delivered in a medical, outpatient facility



- Targeted case management services
 - Assists a Medicaid eligible individual in gaining access to needed medical educational, social, and other services
- 1915 Home and Community-based Services Waiver
 - Allows for alternatives to providing long-term care in institutional settings. May be used to meet the needs of specifically defined groups, illnesses or conditions

- III5 Research and Demonstration Project Waiver
 - Gives states authority to conduct experimental, pilot or demonstration projects that test new ideas of policy merit
- 1915(b) Freedom of Choice Waiver
 - Allows states to waive statewideness, comparability of services, and freedom of choice

- Title XXI State Children's Health Insurance Program
 - Enacted by Congress in 1997 to provide for lowincome, uninsured children under the age of 19 who are not eligible for Medicaid
 - Relationship btw SCHIP and Medicaid varies among states

Methods



• Surveyed 92 active/graduated sites from Oct 2003 roster

• Consulted with National Advisory Group

- Identify site selection criteria
- Select 6 sites for visits
- Develop site visit protocol
- Conducted site visits

Survey Responses



- 60% (38 active, 17 graduated)
 - 41 states and territories
- A range of State Medicaid Eligibility, Options, and Waivers AND financing structures
- Approximately...
 - 50% reported using managed care
 - 33% self identified as innovative
 - 50% expressed interest in participating

Site Selection



- Primary Criteria
 - Range of Options/Waivers, Financing Structures, Demographics, Race/Ethnicity
- Secondary Criteria
 - Geographic, Status (active/graduated)

Selected Sites

- The Dawn Project (Indianapolis, IN)
- The Burlington Project (Trenton, NJ)
- Community Connections for Families (Allegheny County, PA)
- Bridges (Frankfurt, KY)
- Spirit of Caring (Contra Costa County, CA)
- Partnership with Families/Transitions (St. Charles County/Jefferson City, MO)





Bridges (KY)

- Rehab Option
 - Expansive definition of where services can be provided
 - Strong utilization of Option to provide services in schools
- Targeted Case Management Services
 - For service coordination



- The Burlington Partnership (NJ)
 - Pool and braid funds to leverage Rehab Option and EPSDT
 - Use of rate setting methodology to reflect market rates
 - Use of administrative claiming to fund parts of the Family Service Organization and Administrative Service Organization
 - Household-of-one designation
 - Presumptive eligibility



• Community Connections for Families (PA)

- Mental health portion of Medicaid carved out by state and administered at county level
- Incremental mandatory state managed care program under 1915b Waiver
- Use Clinic Option and EPSDT to expand services to include Mobile Therapist, Behavioral Specialist Consultant, and Therapeutic Staff Support
- Bundle of services known as "wraparound"



• The Dawn Project (IN)

- Under Rehab Option services must be provided by CMHCs
- Utilization of Clinic Option to pay for therapy and day treatment
- Utilization of case rate each referral source pays fixed monthly rate upon enrollment
- IT system facilitates billing of Medicaid



- Partnership with Families/Transitions (MO)
 - Part of Medicaid administered under 1115 and 1915b Waivers known as Missouri Care Plus (MC+)
 - Utilization of both Fee For Service and Managed Care systems based on geography
 - Rehab Option, known as Community Psychiatric Rehabilitation, is carved out under MC+ (used to provide in-home services)



• Spirit of Caring (CA)

- Mental health portion of Medicaid (MediCal) carved out by state and administered at county level
- County serves as Medicaid managed care entity
- Child mh services carved out from physical health
- Rehab Option used to access MediCal funds for wraparound services
- Rehab Option offers broad array of communitybased services and flexibility in location of service delivery

Findings



• Essential prerequisites reported by sites

- Leadership and shared vision
- Partnerships and collaboration
- Understanding the Medicaid program

Leadership and Shared Vision



• State-level leadership

- Emergence of committed leadership at state level
- New Jersey
- Kentucky

• Local-level leadership

- Leadership committed to developing and implementing systems of care for children with SED initiated at local level and then used to stimulate change in state policies
- Indiana

Partnerships and Collaboration

- Other interagency administrative relationships and partnerships identified as facilitating the maximization of Medicaid
 - California
 - Pennsylvania

Partnerships with Families



• New Jersey developed a concrete plan for sustaining family support services/ participation beyond the life of the Federal grant

Understanding the Medicaid Program



- Importance of understanding constraints of Medicaid as a 3rd party insurance program
- Challenges noted by sites
 - Inherent difference in the theoretical groundings of the Medicaid system and the system of care/wraparound approach

Challenges Noted by Sites



- Inherent difference in the theoretical groundings of the Medicaid system and the system of care/wraparound approach
- Complexity of Medicaid system
- Providers vary in their capacity to access and utilize Medicaid as a reimbursement source

Lessons Learned



- I) Achieving consensus on a common vision amongst key stakeholders at state and local levels
- 2) Using legislation as a strategy
- 3) Developing strong partnerships/ relationships and collaboration with Medicaid at the state level

Lessons Learned



- 4) Creating an interagency entity with decision-making power
- 5) Partnering with families
- 6) Forming partnerships to create innovative funding streams
- 7) Developing infrastructure related to information technology

Lessons Learned



- 8) Emphasizing Medicaid eligibility
- 9) Understanding Medicaid's rules to work effectively within them and propose changes when necessary
- 10) Utilizing Options and Waivers to maximize flexibility

Concluding Thoughts



- Study revealed that the federal Medicaid program has been used effectively by a number of states to pay for expanded, community-based services within the framework of systems of care for children with SED
- This is consistent with priorities found in the Report of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health

Concluding Thoughts



• Study found very little reliance on SCHIP to assist this population