



Sustainability of Asthma Preventive Services: Lessons Learned in New Mexico

Diana Wilkerson, Ph.D., MHA, DDS

New Mexico Asthma Program Manager/Epidemiologist

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Relying on Our Resources

➤ Partnerships:

- Regional Asthma Management and Prevention (RAMP)
- Local partners (e.g., Nor Lea General Hospital)
- The Office of Community Health Workers (CHWs) within the DOH
- New Mexico Council On Asthma (COA) – Policy Committee

➤ Experience:

- Progress with reimbursing asthma education in the clinic
- Challenges with reimbursing asthma home visits

Bottom-Up Approach

- Council On Asthma Policy Committee meeting, 11/16/2017
- Regional Asthma Management and Prevention presentation
- ☐ We gained initial buy-in!

Lessons Learned

- ❖ An early open discussion with concerned parties and appropriately presenting the policy is an effective approach.

Top-Down Approach

- Medicaid should be present in any meeting regarding Medicaid policies and new service codes.
- A meeting with Managed Care Organizations and Medicaid
 - Return on Investment Evidence
 - Community Health Workers certification
 - Blue-Cross Blue Shield willing to pilot the policy with the Department of Health

Lessons Learned

- ❖ Decision makers should be involved before any step is taken
- ❖ A solid argument should be prepared before any discussion with Medicaid official

Building Additional Support

In New Mexico:

- Medicaid does not reimburse for Community Health Workers activities
- Managed Care Organizations to explore opportunities
- The five-year wavier renewal is currently under review by CMS

Lessons Learned

- ❖ Topic advocacy is critical to exploring opportunities and involving additional partners.
- ❖ Continuing the conversation is critical to step forward toward the policy implementation.

Going Forward

- Back to Council on Asthma Policy Committee
- Continue advocating for the need for the policy
- Exploring reimbursement processes and barriers for available codes

After the CHW certification system is established, we will start the conversation with Blue Cross Blue Shield for piloting home visits for asthma reimbursements.

Lessons Learned

❖ Collaborating using our available assets and continuing the conversation will lead to positive outcomes.

Thank you!

- Regional Asthma Management and Prevention
- The Office of Community Health Workers
- The Council on Asthma Members
- The Managed Care Organizations
- Medicaid
- The Asthma Control Program Evaluator