



Accountable Care Collaborative Program Improvement Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2023 // 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

1. Welcome, Introductions, & Minutes Approval

Kiara Kuenzler welcomed members to the Program Improvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) meeting and called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

The following members were in attendance: Kiara Kuenzler, Ian Engle, Tom Keller, Wendy Nading, Kevin JD Wilson, Daphne McCabe, Brent Pike, Samuel Herbert, Mark Levine, David Keller, Steve Johnson, Catania Jones, Donald Moore, and Kelly Phillips-Henry.

A quorum of voting members was present.

Kiara presented the March meeting minutes for approval. There was one abstention. The [March meeting minutes](#) were approved.

Action Items:

- None.

Parking Lot Items:

- None.

2. Subcommittee Updates

Kiara Kuenzler introduced the PIAC subcommittees to provide updates and announcements. The Behavioral Health Integration Strategies (BHIS) subcommittee and the Provider & Community Experience (P&CE) subcommittee both discussed ACC Phase III at their recent meetings.

At their last meeting, the Performance Measurement and Member Engagement (PMME) subcommittee discussed the Member Health Needs Survey that members complete when they enroll in Health First Colorado. The Regional Accountable Entities (RAEs) presented on how they use data from this survey. PMME also discussed how to improve the response rate and member engagement in this survey.

Action Items:

- None.

Parking Lot Items:

- None.

3. ACC Phase III: Aligning RAE and BHASO Regions

Kiara Kuenzler introduced Mark Quierolo, the Department's Planning and Implementation Unit Supervisor, and Colorado Health Institute (CHI) to lead a discussion and solicit feedback from PIAC members on [geographic alignment](#) of Regional Accountable Entity (RAE) and Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organization (BHASO) regions in ACC Phase III. The ACC Phase III priority initiatives are [here](#). Upcoming ACC Phase III stakeholder engagement meeting dates and registrations are [here](#).

PIAC members commented on the following topics:

- RAE/BHASO alignment
 - BHASOs should align with the RAEs since the RAEs are already in place.
 - There should be joint incentives for the RAEs and BHASOs to encourage collaboration.
- Geographic concerns
 - Large geographic areas will have a wide variety of member and provider needs. Some of the current county placements will not meet these needs.
 - Member/provider/RAE partnerships that already exist should be utilized.
 - There are ways to break up the state other than geographic boundaries (e.g., types of care, urban vs. rural, alignment with public health).
 - Rural regions need support to provide resources.
- Timeline
 - The timeline for BHASO contracting should be slowed down.
- Member care
 - The focus should be on natural care utilization and patterns, not geographic boundaries.
 - Member transportation resources and access to care need to be considered.
 - Members transitioning to a new RAE might experience disruptions in care.
- Overall
 - Concern that significant changes to the ACC program would be disruptive to providers and members.

Action Items:

- PIAC members and the public can complete the survey from CHI on county placement and additional considerations by April 25, 2023.

Parking Lot Items:

- None.

4. Open Comment

CHI opened the meeting for open comment on alignment of the RAE and BHASO regions in ACC Phase III. The public commented on the following topics:

- Different implementation dates for the RAEs and BHASOs is a concern.
- Long-term services and supports (LTSS) should be better integrated into ACC Phase III.



- ACC Phase III should focus on member utilization data instead of geographic boundaries.

Action Items:

- None.

Parking Lot Items:

- PIAC requested to have leadership from the Behavioral Health Administration attend an upcoming PIAC meeting.

5. ACC Phase III: Integrated Care Benefit Proposal

Kiara Kuenzler introduced John Laukkanen, the Department's Behavioral Health and Benefit Operations Unit Supervisor, to lead a discussion and solicit feedback from PIAC members on a proposal for an [Integrated Care Benefit](#) in ACC Phase III.

PIAC members commented on the following topics:

- Pre-existing partnerships with federally qualified health centers and community mental health centers are valuable and need to be kept intact.
- The timeline needs to be slowed down.
- The proposal should incorporate the needs of children and providing family-oriented care. For example, the mix of interventions for children (more prevention and early intervention) are different than the mix of intervention for adults (more higher acuity services).
- Billing for behavioral health and physical health services separately needs to be considered.

Action Items:

- Additional feedback on the Integrated Care Benefit proposal can be shared with the Department.

Parking Lot Items:

- None.

6. Open Comment

Audrey Keenan and John Laukkanen opened the meeting for public comment on the Integrated Care Benefit proposal. The public commented on the following topics:

- LTSS should be included in this proposal, especially for youth.
- These changes will be difficult for small and independent providers to adapt to.
- The current proposal provides less incentive for partnerships.
- The administrative burden of funding options needs to be considered.



- There was a question about whether health homes were considered. The Department responded that they were. However, research from other states indicate that results were mixed and the administrative burden was high.
- There are trade-offs in billing approaches for integrated care. Billing fee-for-service might be easier, but comes at the cost of decreased flexibility. Flexibility might be a higher priority.

Action Items:

- None.

Parking Lot Items:

- None.

7. PIAC Discussion and Next Steps

Kiara Kuenzler reviewed next steps and action items from the meeting:

- PIAC members and the public can complete the survey on county placement and additional considerations from CHI by April 25, 2023.
- Additional feedback on the Integrated Care Benefit proposal can be shared with the Department.

Parking Lot Items:

- None.

8. Adjournment

Kiara Kuenzler adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM.

