INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAID INNOVATION

Welcome to the November Newsletter

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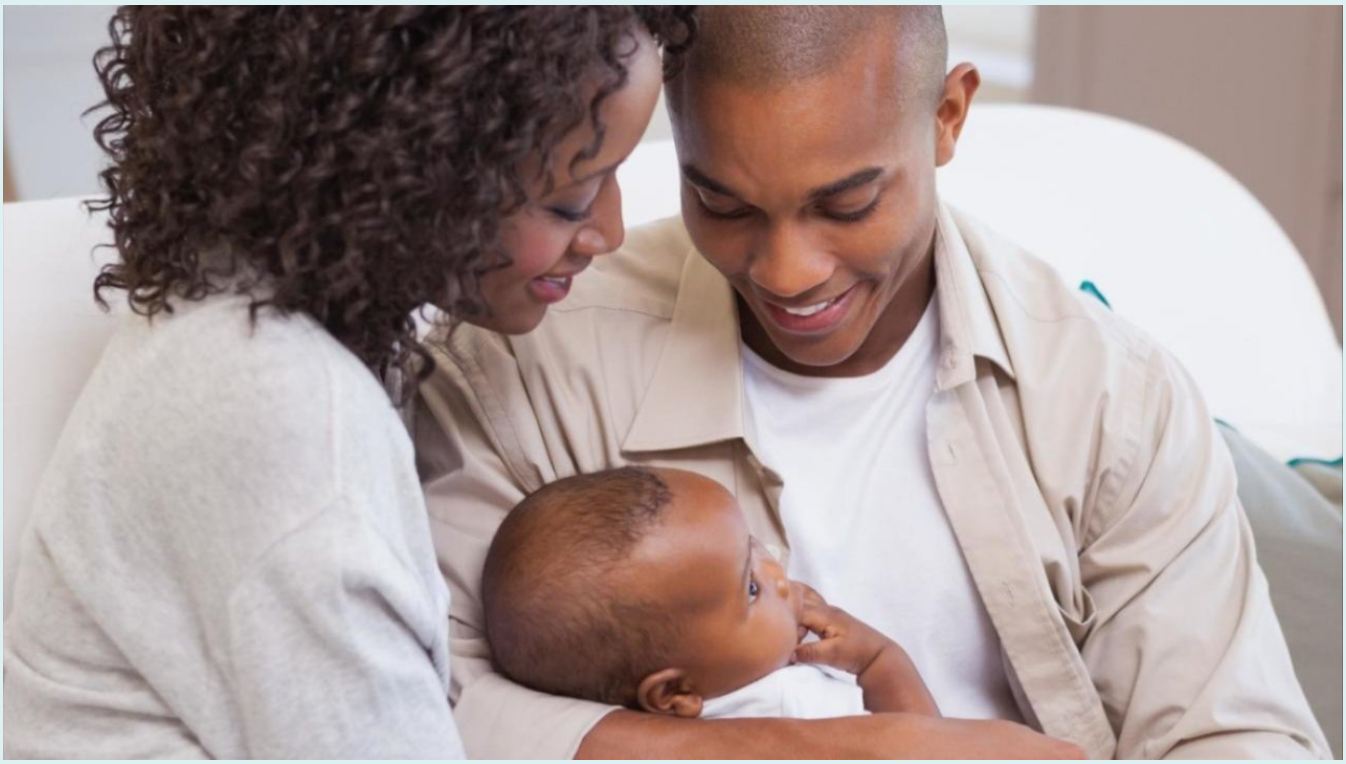

The Midwifery in Medicaid Business Case Learning

Series Concludes

In 2023, the Institute for Medicaid Innovation (IMI) launched the Midwifery in Medicaid Business Case Learning Series, a 15-session, salon style program funded by the Skyline Foundation. The series brought together BIPOC-focused, Medicaid-serving midwives of all credentials with national experts in business development, Medicaid, and midwifery. Through thoughtful presentations and discussions, participants received information and tools to help them build a Medicaid-focused business case for midwifery.

IMI has released themes from the evaluation of the Series. The evaluation themes present recommendations and opportunities for the development of future collaborative efforts in support of the midwifery workforce in Medicaid. These recommendations come from participant surveys and interviews throughout the yearlong Series. The themes highlight a common desire for continued learning opportunities to further bolster their capacity to more sustainably serve a diverse patient mix that includes Medicaid enrollees.

Thank you to all who participated in our Series!

IMI Kicks Off the Three-Year Doula Learning and Action Collaborative

The Institute for Medicaid Innovation (IMI) kicked off the three-year Doula Learning and Action Collaborative in October by holding the first foundational session with the seven state teams: Alabama, California, DC, Nebraska, Nevada, Texas, and newly-added Oregon. Each team includes a representative from the state Medicaid agency, a Medicaid health plan, doulas, community-based organizations, health care providers, and people with lived or living experience in the Medicaid program. During this first virtual session, team members got to know each other as a cohort and as state teams, reviewed what to expect in the collaborative throughout the first foundational year, began to develop a team charter, and completed a readiness pre-assessment. Members of the project's national advisory committee attended to observe and engage with state teams. Throughout the meeting and in the post-meeting evaluation, state team members and national advisory committee members expressed excitement and enthusiasm for the work in their state as well as collectively in the collaborative.

What's next? State teams will meet individually in November with the project team to complete their team charters. To round out 2024, teams will come together in December for the second foundational session, "Creating Cultures of Equity," before heading into the holiday season.

Last Chance: Our Annual Medicaid Managed Care Survey Release Event is November 15

It's not too late to join our virtual release event on **November 15th at 2pm ET.** We will release the findings from our annual Medicaid MCO survey with a live webinar. Join us as we unveil key findings, exploring trends that impact individuals enrolled in the Medicaid program, health plans, policymakers, and administrators. Our expert panel will provide insights and discuss the implications of these findings.

Don't miss this opportunity to engage with leaders and gain critical knowledge of the Medicaid landscape. Share with colleagues and partners!

What to Expect

- Inspiring insights on the importance of Medicaid, the annual MCO Survey, and health equity.

- Panel discussion featuring experts and advocates tackling the systemic issues that affect people with lived experience in the Medicaid program, managed care organizations, communities, and others.

- Opportunities to learn from professionals and community leaders dedicated to health equity.

Register Now!
November 15th, 2024
2PM-3PM ET

Ten State-Based Teams Convened in Chicago to Promote Health Equity

The Advancing Health Equity (AHE) 2024 Fall Convening— "Innovation, Reflection, and Sustainability: In Pursuit of Health Equity"—was held in Chicago's vibrant South Loop neighborhood. The Institute for Medicaid

Innovation, University of Chicago, Center for Health Care Strategies, and The Justice Collective are partners in this multi-year national initiative, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Twelve state teams participate, and each year, members convene in person, along with the National Advisory Committee, and each of the partner organizations. AHE participants understand that our work is significantly improved when we test our ideas with others.

State teams worked together to create viable solutions to eliminating health inequities and enacting payment reform. Attendees took part in workshops and team breakout and poster sessions, all while getting to know one another outside of the work they do. Dr. Rachel Hardeman was featured as this year's keynote speaker. Her remarks centered around the power of the collective to change existing structures steeped in inequity.

Announcing a New Risk Adjustment Model for Managed Care Organizations

The Chronic Illness and Disability Payment System (CDPS) is a diagnostic-based risk adjustment model that is widely used to adjust capitated payments for health plans' that enroll individuals covered by Medicaid. We are delighted to announce the new release of CDPS and CDPS+Rx, version 7.2. This revision focused on an in-depth clinical review of the CDPS model categories. Clinical experts were engaged to provide feedback on each CDPS major category and changes were made to the model as appropriate. As a result, four new CDPS categories were added to the model including CNSVH, CERH, METL, and HEMH with slight improvements in R-squares. The 2024 model includes 22,646 ICD-10 diagnoses: 1,125 diagnoses were dropped from the previous model and 1,534 were added. The next stage of this project, to be launched in 2025, will be to update the model with the most recent data and continue exploring how to incorporate non-medical health drivers, such as housing and transportation, into the model.

If you are a state Medicaid agency or Medicaid health plan who is interested in joining the ongoing work of this project, please contact Dr. Jennifer Moore at JMoore@MedicaidInnovation.org

More Evidence of Doulas' Cost-Effectiveness

IMI is proud to help document more evidence that doulas are cost effective. A new study led by Julie Mottl-Santiago, DrPH, CNM and co-authored by IMI Founding Executive Director Jennifer E. Moore, PhD, RN, FAAN found that enhanced a community doula program saved money for Medicaid and increased access to doula support for people with low incomes. This study should reassure budget-conscious Medicaid payers that doula services are affordable.

The authors conducted a return-on-investment (ROI) analysis from the perspective of an enhanced community doula intervention, Best Beginnings for Babies (BBB). Healthcare and program cost data were collected alongside clinical outcomes from a randomized controlled trial of routine maternity care at Boston Medical Center

with and without BBB. The findings: average healthcare costs per patient were $18,969 for the BBB group compared with $20,121 for routine care, a savings of $1,152.

Read more!

IMI's Journey with the Equity Learning Lab

In 2020, as the country was grappling with horrifying events of racial injustice and violence and a global pandemic, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded a cohort of organizations seeking to advance their learning and progress on racial equity. This effort, called the Equity Learning Lab, involved almost 40 organizations, and we at IMI are proud to say that we were one of them. While community and equity have always been core tenets of IMI, we understood the benefit of doing this work in community with other organizations and the immeasurable valuable of support provided through tailored coaching and access to expert consultants.

IMI was identified as an early leader in the cohort in advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice within our organization and external programs. **Learn about our journey in the three-year Equity Learning Lab through IMI's profile and video.** Additionally, a website about the Equity Learning Lab is now live, with insights from the evaluation, tools, and resources.

Thank you to RWJF for investing in this work!

Check out our Swag and Support IMI!

We have swag! Our first online swag store has all the cute stuff you need to support IMI's research, policy, and community-led work! We drive Medicaid policy that provides both physical and behavioral health care for all.

Proceeds support the work we do at the Institute for Medicaid Innovation. Purchasing our merch and making a donation are two ways you can make a difference in the lives of children and families.

Donate

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The Institute for Medicaid Innovation (IMI) is a 501(c)3 national nonprofit, nonpartisan research and policy organization focused on providing evidence of innovative solutions that address important clinical, research, and policy issues in Medicaid through multi-stakeholder engagement, research, data analysis, education, learning collaboratives, quality improvement initiatives, and dissemination and implementation activities. IMI is not a membership or trade association and is funded exclusively through research grants and contracts.

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