

Healthy Students, Promising Futures

Learning Collaborative

Key Policy and Practice Themes June 2018 Meeting

Listed below are themes from the June 2018 in-person meeting of the *Healthy Students, Promising Futures* (HSPF) Learning Collaborative. State teams were interested in topics ranging from: mechanisms for and reimbursement of health care services; tips and tools for communicating about school health; using data; and building partnerships with health care providers. States are working in a variety of ways to increase the provision of health services in schools, including through school-employed providers, partnerships with Medicaid providers such as hospitals, school-based health centers, federally-qualified health centers and others. States are also working to provide the policy, systems and environmental supports that create a healthy school environment in which all children can thrive.

This list is not exhaustive and there are many additional substantive issues that were discussed during the meeting.

Role of coordinated state teams and interdisciplinary work

HSPF continues to make progress in developing a shared language across sectors and providing a peer learning group to support student health. Building a strong and cohesive state team that includes partners from education, Medicaid and other sectors (such as public health and child health advocates) remains key to moving a unified agenda forward. State teams value the opportunity to work across silos and the Learning Collaborative provides a strong mechanism to do so.

State teams are exploring ways to engage additional partners—including identification of the *right* partners and decisionmakers, as well as the *right* engagement methods. Members from both state education agencies and Medicaid agencies are interested in developing new and stronger partnerships with their state Medicaid agency. This includes engaging members from different parts of Medicaid (e.g., managed care; eligibility), as well as empowering leadership to take action. State teams are interested in the “how”: how to present school-based health data; how to talk to Medicaid about school health services; how to identify the most effective and financially sustainable care models; how to enroll in managed care; and how to identify quality metrics that are important to Medicaid and Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).

State teams have also expressed interested in engaging public health, early education, advocates, parents, health providers and others in the community.

Desire for more information on Medicaid billing, reimbursement models and managed care

Questions about Medicaid billing and reimbursement came up in different sessions and contexts. State teams are interested in exploring how to leverage Medicaid reimbursement—and how that works in practice. They want concrete examples and strategies to better understand their state Medicaid

reimbursement streams, identify the best billing options for school-based services, and learn how to braid Medicaid funds with their other funding sources.

There were many questions about the traditional school health model (billing for services provided by school employees) and how it is financed at the state and federal level. This included questions about: administrative claiming; Random Moment Time Study methodology to report costs; and cost pools. Some state teams expressed interest in understanding where they are on the spectrum of school health models—for example, comparing models currently employed in their state to the models operating in other states.

Managed care—including the nuts-and-bolts of working with managed care organizations (MCOs)—surfaced in many conversations. There was a strong interest in more content on managed care—particularly leveraging MCO partnerships to advance behavioral health. State teams want best practices for contracting with MCOs and model memoranda of understanding (MOUs) for enrolling school-employed providers in managed care. They are interested in the pros and cons of carving school health in or out of managed care, and thinking through ways to hold the MCOs accountable for reimbursing for services in schools through MCO contracts.

Medicaid reimbursement & State Plan Amendments

State teams remain interested in Medicaid reimbursement policy in other states, including the pursuit of school-health related state plan amendments (SPAs). In particular, state teams want more information about the Massachusetts SPA as their SPA develops. This includes access to materials on the SPA when publicly available, especially on the different billing methodologies for IEP/non-IEP students. State teams are also interested in how other states have used SPAs to advance school health, beyond expansion of services to non-IEP students (e.g., charter schools; school nursing, expanded services and expanded provider types).

Interest in information and context on federal policy

State teams remain extremely committed to advancing student health and wellness, including by leveraging Medicaid reimbursement. HSPF has been a major source of learning and support for this work. The teams value the information about Medicaid policy, national policy trends, and other student health and wellness initiatives from federal agencies. Teams use the information provided during the in-person meetings to better understand the federal policymaking context, implications for their state, and ways to leverage federal policies and resources. They value the identification of big-picture trends and national-level data as well as state-level data.

There may be other ways to present the content through the Learning Collaborative—including webinars, emails, and other static updates.

Dissemination of state information, best practices and case studies

State teams enjoy the opportunity to talk, share their stories, and listen to their peers. When surveyed, peer-to-peer contact remains the most important element of the initiative. What state teams *value the highest*—and the information they share most when back home—are the concrete examples of what other states are doing, the challenges they are facing, and any materials, templates, data or supporting documentation that they can adapt and use in their state.

Resources shared by teams at the June 2018 meeting included:

Partnerships between schools and health care providers

State teams value the opportunity to hear about successful partnerships between schools and health care providers. The Learning Collaborative has provided several examples of possible partnerships, including with hospitals, universities, health centers, and mobile vans—each of which are concrete models to increase access to school health services. State teams want strategies for how they can approach this work at home, including next steps for advancing new and existing partnerships at the state level. For example, states are interested in learning specific steps for forging a partnership with a hospital or approaching a provider to expand access to mobile vans.

Expanding access to telehealth

State teams appreciated the content on telehealth that explained how, what and why a school district would implement telehealth. State teams want to understand what levers state policymakers can utilize in order to build the policy ecosystem for telehealth. This could include: clarity in Medicaid billing; finding grant money to seed telehealth; or building a telehealth learning collaborative at the state level with a range of partners (including hospitals and other providers and parent groups) to normalize telehealth in schools. There may be a role for peer learning in telehealth within the Learning Collaborative states.

Behavioral health

State teams continue to identify the need to increase access to behavioral health services and supports as a priority in their work. While state teams are interested in learning about innovative, school- and district-level models, there is also an interest in understanding what role state agencies can play in advancing this work through funding for behavioral health services and supports, professional development and training, and cross-sector collaboration.

Ongoing & Emerging Issues

There are several issues that continue to be discussed at every meeting, and some that arose for the first time in June.

Ongoing issues include:

- *Data sharing*
- *Credentialing with the state and with MCOs*
- *School-based health centers*

Newly emerging issues include:

- *Development of metrics for school health*
- *Parental consent forms*
- *Third party administrators for school-based claiming*