

Performance measure implementation

Work of the Performance Measures Coordinating Committee to establish measures and improvement targets related to behavioral health integration, criminal justice system involvement, and homelessness

Substitute Senate Bill 5157; Section 2(6)(b); Chapter 267; Laws of 2021; and

Second Substitute House Bill 1860; Section 2(6)(b); Chapter 215; Laws of 2022

July 1, 2022

Legislative summary

The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) administers the Performance Measures Coordinating Committee (PMCC). Section 2(6) of Substitute Senate Bill 5157 (2021) and section 2(6) of 2nd Substitute House Bill 1860 (2022) require the PMCC to report on its efforts to establish the following performance measures and set improvement targets for each.

1. A performance measure to be integrated into the Statewide Common Measure Set (SCMS) that tracks effective integration practices of behavioral health services in primary care settings.
2. Performance measures that track rates of criminal justice system involvement among Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) clients with an identified behavioral health need including, but not limited to, rates of arrest and incarceration.
3. Performance measures that track rates of homelessness and housing instability among Apple Health clients.

The PMCC is required to convene and stakeholder work groups to inform its efforts to establish performance measures and improvement targets related to criminal justice system involvement and homelessness and housing instability.

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Behavioral health integration

In partnership with HCA and the Department of Social and Health Services Research and Data Analysis Division (RDA), the PMCC added the [Mental Health Treatment Penetration \(Broad\)](#)* measure to the SCMS in December 2016 to track the effective integration of behavioral health services into primary care settings. At the time, there were no available performance measures that met the requirement. The measure, which RDA developed, tracks the percentage of members with a mental health service need who received outpatient mental health services in the measurement year.

There are no national benchmarks available for comparison with this Washington State-developed measure. Therefore, HCA, in collaboration with RDA, set improvement targets. Those are currently based on the previous year's second-best performing Apple Health managed care organization (MCO). HCA and RDA review these results quarterly.

*Extends services received beyond certified behavioral health facilities to other primary care settings.

Criminal justice system involvement

In August 2021, the PMCC convened a work group to review current national performance measures and those adopted by other states that track rates of criminal justice system involvement among Medicaid clients. The work

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group, which comprised members from Apple Health MCOs, the Department of Corrections (DOC), and experts in criminal justice and behavioral health, determined that no existing measures met the requirement. The PMCC then tasked RDA to develop a set of measures that meet this requirement, using input from the work group. After receiving initial approval from the PMCC in October 2022 on an approach, RDA developed a set of three measures. RDA presented those measures to the PMCC in April 2022, and the PMCC approved adding them to the SCMS. The final measures are:

- Arrest Rate for Medicaid Beneficiaries with Behavioral Health Needs; and
- Receipt of Substance Use Disorder Treatment for Medicaid Beneficiaries Following Release from a Correctional Facility; and
- Receipt of Outpatient Mental Health Treatment for Medicaid Beneficiaries Following Release from a Correctional Facility.

There are no national benchmarks available for comparison with these Washington State-developed measures. HCA will work with RDA to establish future targets after collecting a full year of results for performance baselines.

In addition, work is ongoing to identify opportunities to leverage value-based-purchasing mechanisms to support the use of these measures in MCO contracts. Those recommendations will be submitted in a separate report to the legislature due by October 1, 2022.

Homelessness and housing instability

The PMCC began its work to establish measures that track rates of homelessness and housing instability in April 2022. The PMCC will use a similar approach to review and establish those measures and related performance targets as was used to implement measures that track rates of criminal justice involvement.

Next steps

The PMCC anticipates the following steps through the end of calendar year 2023:

1. The PMCC will begin recruiting work group members from HCA, MCOs, and experts in housing for low-income populations with experience in understanding the impacts of homelessness and housing instability on health.
2. HCA will convene the work group on behalf of the PMCC over the summer of 2022 and bring recommendations to the PMCC for initial approval in early fall 2022.
3. If no measures currently exist that meet the requirements, HCA will work with RDA to develop measures that track rates of homelessness and housing instability.
4. RDA will present the final set of measures to the PMCC for approval and implementation into the SCMS in spring 2023.
5. HCA will partner with RDA and MCOs to identify performance targets for the three criminal justice involvement measures by summer 2024.

Contact

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