

AGM Panel on Impact of Medicaid Reform on Access to Care for People with HIV/AIDS

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UF Center for HIV/AIDS Research, Education and Service

- The Rainbow Center program serves over 1,500 individuals living with or affected by HIV/AIDS with a comprehensive medical home model.
- We are a Ryan White Part A, C, and D provider serving Jacksonville, Florida, with services in surrounding counties, and Daytona Beach.

Florida's Medicaid Reform Overview

- Two counties were initially selected to participate in the reform Broward (Ft. Lauderdale area) and Duval (Jacksonville).
- Medicaid Reform was signed into law in 2005 and was implemented July 2006.

Who is covered under reform?

- Children, parents and people with disabilities not in institutions are required to enroll in managed care in the pilot counties.

Concerns became evident just prior to implementation:

- There was concern among local Ryan White providers that a new managed care plan was applying to enroll all HIV patients in Duval County in a disease management program.

Why was this a concern?

- Rainbow Center is the only pediatric and adolescents focused HIV/AIDS provider in NE Florida.
- We also serve over 900 adults who would not be able to see us
- As part of a large institution implementing a PSN (Provider Service Network) to participate in managed care

How has reform impacted people living with HIV/AIDS that we serve?

- During implementation, many patients were confused about the process.
- Our patient population is mobile and many were not aware of the changes coming or being implemented.

Impacts on People Living with HIV/AIDS and Ryan White Program

Assignment and Enrollment

- A “Choice Counselor” program was developed to assist people in selecting a health plan.
- If you don’t choose a plan you are assigned a plan. (limited time to choose)

Plan Enrollment and Assignment

- Choice Counselors assigned patients to general primary care doctors who don’t see HIV patients.
- Patients didn’t know how to explain where they go for care, and many didn’t know where they were assigned.

Plan Enrollment and Assignment (cont)

- Patients didn't want to disclose HIV status when selecting doctors and it was not part of the script for the counselors.
- HIV focused doctors were not listed as primary care providers, so hard to find in system.
- Name of clinic was not listed, many know clinic vs. doctor name.

During First Few Months of Implementation

- We worked to ensure our providers were listed both as primary care and specialty.
- Added Rainbow Center as a selection.
- Educated patients about how to find us when they called choice counselors.

Ongoing Challenges

- Client/Patient has 30 days to select a plan. If not they are assigned a plan
- There is a lock in period- a year – unless you have “just cause” to switch plans
- Even if patient switches plans it still may take a month to be on plan to access care

On-going Challenges

Impacts on our clinic operations

- Access
- Payment

Emergence of a New Challenge

- Women who already have Medicaid, are HIV+ and become pregnant
- 2 Recent Case Examples (2008)

Additional Impact on Ryan White Programs

- We are seeing less people enrolled in Medicaid at our site.
- More patient visits are being covered through Ryan White

Additional Impact on Ryan White Programs

- Resources
- Need for increased staff time
- Becomes priority need to be met by case management
