

Create Health Homes for People with Mental Illness

- Ohioans with mental illness represent about 10 percent of Ohio’s Medicaid population but 26 percent of all Medicaid spending. In addition to serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI), these individuals commonly experience serious physical health conditions related to mental illness.
- Governor John Kasich’s Jobs Budget (HB 153) authorized Ohio Medicaid to design a person-centered system of care—called a “health home”—to improve care coordination for high-risk beneficiaries. Ohio Medicaid teamed with the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) to focus first on creating health homes for Medicaid beneficiaries with SPMI.
- Physical health conditions such as diabetes and heart disease are common for people with SPMI. These conditions, often exacerbated by medications taken to treat mental illness, are preventable when care providers treat the whole person instead of a particular illness.
- Medicaid health homes aim to break down the silos that exist between physical health-care benefits and providers and behavioral health services and funding streams. This is accomplished by offering comprehensive medical, behavioral, long-term care and social services that are timely, of high quality, integrated and coordinated by a core team of multi-disciplinary professionals.
- Ohio has begun to integrate care in Ohio through grant funding from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Medicaid health homes will build on the lessons learned at these integrated care sites.
- Health home providers will be Community Behavioral Health Centers and will be reimbursed on a monthly basis for health home services. Sites will be selected based on a center’s ability to meet defined qualifications.
- ODMH and Ohio Medicaid have jointly developed the SPMI health home proposal with active engagement from stakeholder groups. Ohio Medicaid submitted a draft state plan amendment (SPA) to the federal government on December 23 to implement the new program beginning summer 2012.
- For more information about health homes for people with mental illness, Ohio’s stakeholder process and the draft SPA:
<http://www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov/CurrentInitiatives/CreateHealthHomes.aspx>