

Solutions Subgroup

Emergency Department Working Group

March 12, 2024 | 8:30-9:30am

Meeting Minutes

Members present: Greg Allard, Jonathan Bankoff, Barbara Cass, Dock Fox, Michael Holmes, Renee Malaro, Miriam Miller, Mag Morelli, Phil Roland

Members absent: John Brancato, Dan Freess, Stephanie Mcguire, Chris Moore, Kim Sandor

Introduction

- Dock called the meeting to order at 8:31am
- The group approved the 2.14 meeting minutes without revisions

Old Business: Continued discussion of MIH, Hospital at Home, Community collaboration

- Discussion of Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) as a possible solution – DPH MIH kickoff event on March 13 got canceled
 - Barbara noted that the event was postponed, but this does not mean DPH does not support it, they are on pause
- Discussion of Hospital at home
 - Dock indicated that he heard CMS funding may dry up around December, Michael clarified that the CMS funding sunset is in July, but there is pressure around the country to extend the payment source for Hospital at Home
 - Barbara added that only two hospitals in CT are in the Hospital at Home program – Yale and Bridgeport; Hospital at Home was a CMS initiative, meaning that DPH did not have an active role in the program
 - Jonathan added that Hospital at Home takes a lot of resources and personnel to implement and maintain, including the technology platform, remote monitoring, and coordinating logistics of different services visiting a patient
 - Barbara added the Hospital at Home requires three RN visits a day
 - Barbara will find and distribute a slide deck from CMS with more information on setting up Hospital at Home
 - Michael offered to connect the group with Katie O’Leary, YNNH staff who has done presentations across the nation sharing Yale’s experience setting up Hospital at Home
- Discussion of pre-authorizations
 - Barbara shared that the discharge subgroup is looking into scheduling a meeting with a subject matter expert in the hospital industry who can provide a presentation on the work they have done relating to the prior authorization process
 - Members of the group expressed interest in learning more about prior authorization and learning more about discharge to skilled nursing facilities

- Phil flagged that prior authorization has both state and federal legislation in process that affects predominantly fully insured individuals
- Phil is looking into getting data to better understand the problems behind prior authorizations/what percentage of cases are causing hold ups in the system, information is forthcoming
- Community collaborators: Dock flagged bill HB 5427 concerning non-emergency transport as something members may want to support since the solutions subgroup discussed this last time
 - Greg was unsure if 5428 would be useful to track, and shared in the chat that the purpose of 5427 is “To require drivers providing nonemergency medical transportation to be licensed operators of motor vehicles used for passenger transportation.”

New Business: Open discussion on direction of the subgroup; goal setting

- Dock flagged that SB 181, AAC Emergency Department Crowding, received a joint favorable (JF) report, and that the main group is keeping an eye on this
- The solutions group has a lot of ideas, but having one to three top objectives is important to ensure the group can make progress
- Dock brought up looking into capacity issues to understand how the group could work to mitigate these
 - He mentioned that it could be good to reach out to inpatient counterparts to get more info on their side, and that it would be good to get a different perspective on how these issues with ED crowding/boarding/discharge affects them, as well as to field other ideas around managing capacity
- The solutions group liked the idea of meeting jointly with the discharge subgroup to identify the top priorities of the two groups – members floated the idea of sitting in on the March 22 meeting of the other subgroup as an option

Closing

- Group members can email Melia any resources or information they would like to share with the solutions subgroup (melia.allan@ct.gov)
- The meeting adjourned at 8:58am