

Connecticut Medicaid Substance Use Disorder Demonstration Waiver Post Award Forum



OCTOBER 21, 2022

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
JUDICIAL BRANCH
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION
OFFICE OF POLICY MANAGEMENT**

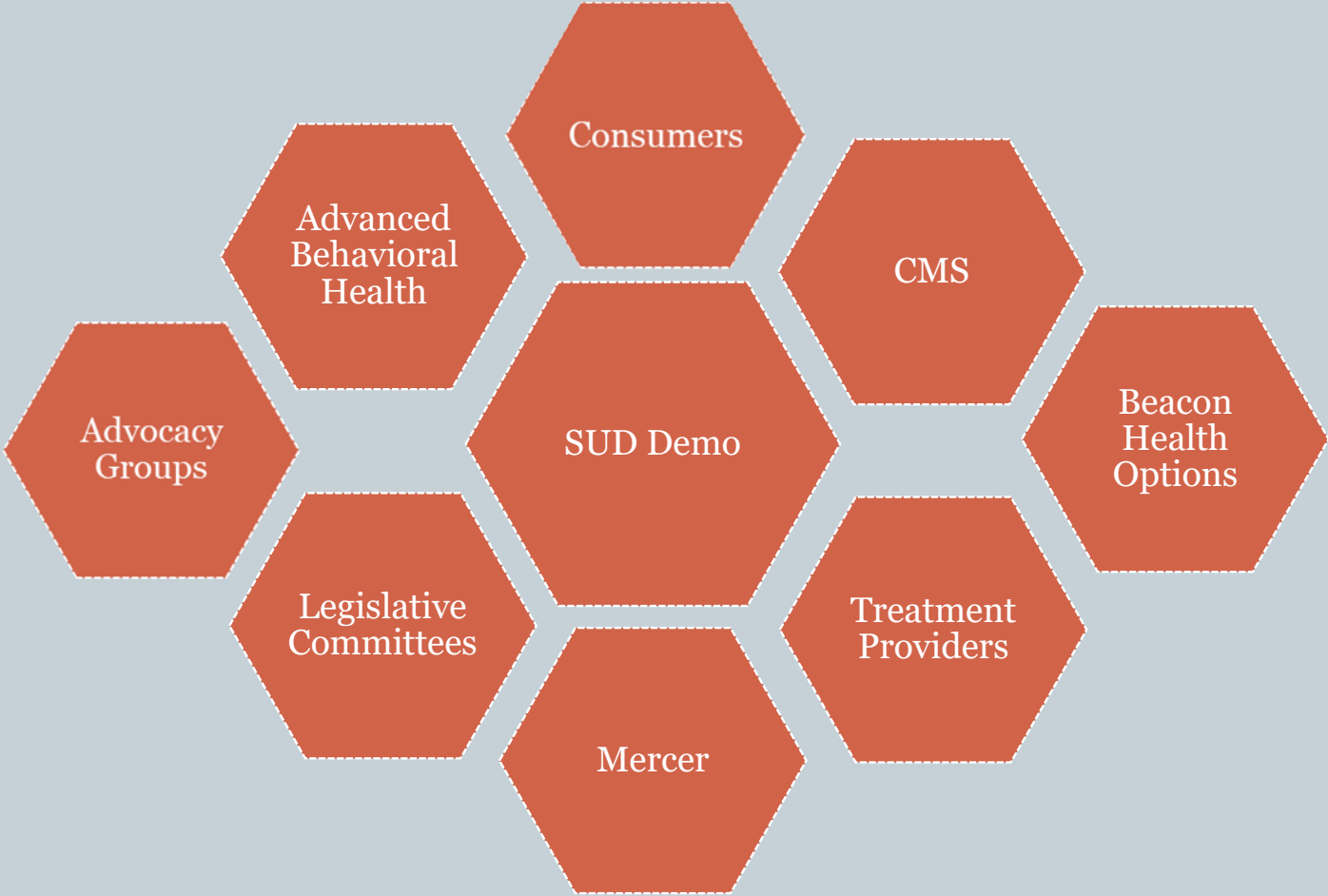
Post Award Forum

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- CMS requires DSS to gather input from stakeholders at a required post award forum six months after the SUD 1115 Demonstration approval.
 - The Demonstration was approved on April 14, 2022.
 - Public comments from input prior to the approval of the demonstration, as well as the agency response to these comments are available on our webpage – ct.gov/dss/SUD1115.
 - This webinar fulfills the CMS post award forum requirement.
 - Written comments may be sent to CT-SUD-DEMO@ct.gov by October 28, 2022.

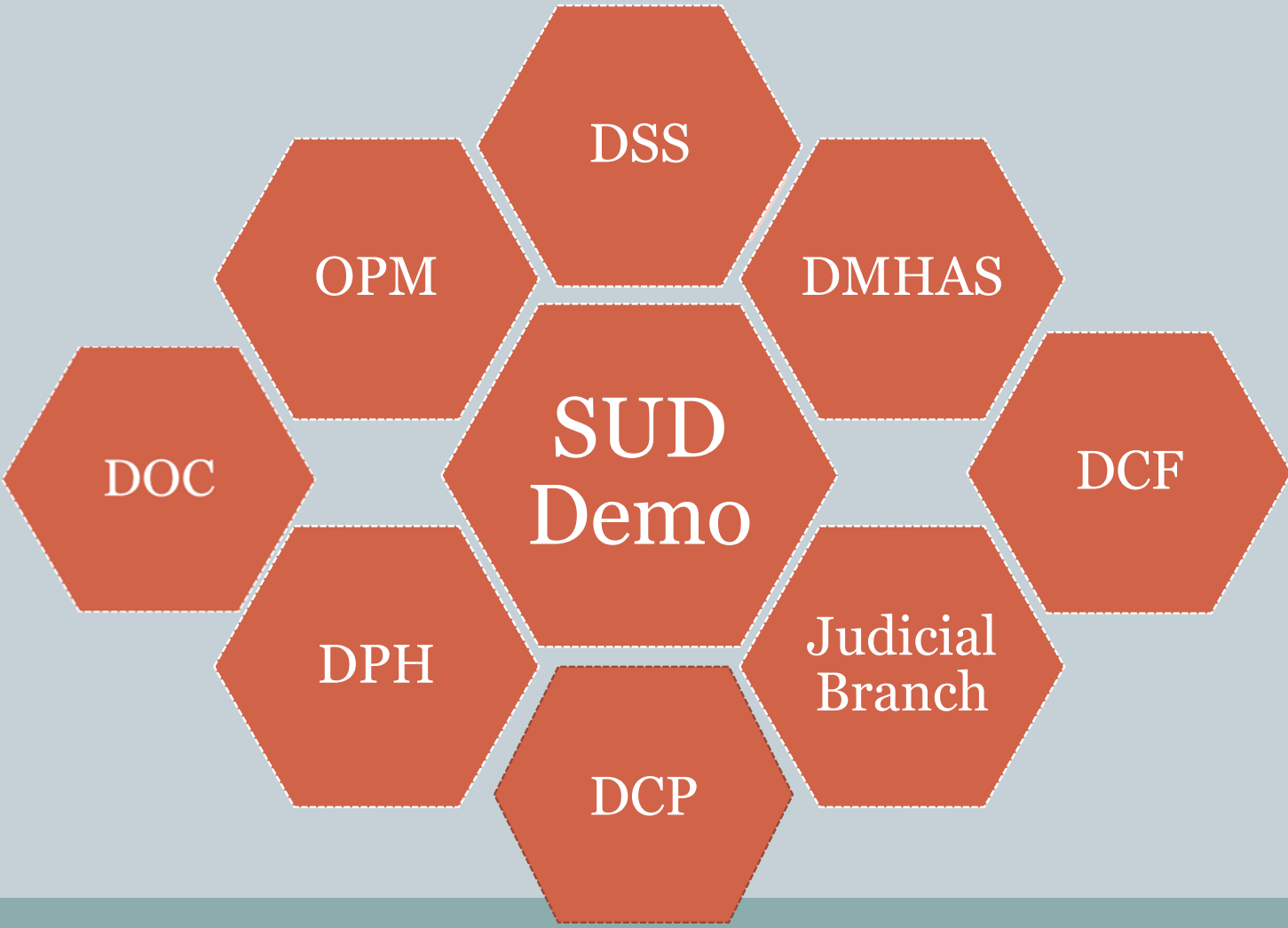
Stakeholder Input

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State Agency Collaboration

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Background and Purpose of SUD Demo Waiver

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- As part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' effort to combat the ongoing opioid crisis, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) created an opportunity under the authority of section 1115(a) of the Social Security Act for states to demonstrate and test flexibilities to improve the substance use disorder (SUD) service system for beneficiaries.
- The purpose of this waiver is to allow coverage of residential and inpatient SUD services under HUSKY Health that have previously been excluded due to longstanding federal policies.
- DSS has been working in close consultation and collaboration with our state agency partners at DMHAS, DCF, DOC, Judicial Branch, DPH, and OPM in designing this Demonstration. Additional partners include Mercer, Advanced Behavioral Health (ABH) and Beacon Health Options.
- Connecticut received CMS approval of the waiver on April 14, 2022 with a Demonstration approval period through March 2027.

State Objectives

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- The intent of this Demonstration is to provide critical access to a full array of SUD treatment services for Connecticut HUSKY Health members and improve the delivery system for these services to provide more coordinated and comprehensive SUD treatment.
- With first-time federal funding of these treatment services, the state is reinvesting in the services system by way of increased provider payment rates and provider standards to improve the quality of care all treatment recipients receive.

State Objectives Continued

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- The goals and objectives for this Demonstration include:
 - Increased rates of identification, initiation and engagement in treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD) and other SUDs;
 - Increased adherence to and retention in treatment for OUD and other SUDs;
 - Reductions in overdose deaths, particularly those due to opioids;
 - Reduced utilization of emergency departments and inpatient hospital settings for OUD and other SUD treatment where the utilization is preventable or medically inappropriate through improved access to other continuum of care services;
 - Fewer readmissions to the same or higher level of care where readmissions are preventable or medically inappropriate for OUD and other SUDs; and
 - Improved access to care for physical health conditions among beneficiaries with OUD and other SUDs.

Eligibility

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- This Demonstration removed Medicaid payment barriers for SUD residential and inpatient treatment, ensuring critical access for all coverage groups:
 - HUSKY A—Medicaid for children, teens, parents, relative caregivers and pregnant women;
 - HUSKY B—Children’s Health Insurance Program for children and teens up to age 19;
 - HUSKY C—Medicaid for adults 65 and older and adults with disabilities, including long-term services and supports and Medicaid for Employees with Disabilities;
 - HUSKY D—Medicaid for low-income adults without dependent children.

1115 SUD Waiver Requirements Milestones



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CMS SUD 1115 MILESTONES	EXPLANATION
1. Access to critical levels of care for OUD and other SUDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coverage of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) outpatient b) intensive outpatient services c) medications for addiction treatment (MAT) [medications, as well as counseling and other services with sufficient provider capacity to meet needs of Medicaid beneficiaries in the state] d) intensive levels of care in residential and inpatient settings and e) medically supervised withdrawal management
2. Use of evidence-based, SUD-specific patient placement criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of requirement that providers assess treatment needs based on SUD-specific, multidimensional assessment tools such as the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria or other patient placement assessment tools which reflect evidence-based clinical treatment guidelines. • Implementation of a utilization management approach such that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) beneficiaries have access to SUD services at the appropriate level of care b) interventions are appropriate for the diagnosis and level of care and c) there is an independent process for reviewing placement in residential treatment settings
3. Use of nationally recognized SUD-specific program standards to set provider qualifications for residential treatment facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of residential treatment provider qualifications in licensure requirements, policy manuals, or other guidance. Qualification should meet program standards in the ASAM criteria, or other nationally recognized, evidence-based SUD-specific program standards regarding, in particular, the types of services, hours of clinical care and credentials of staff for residential treatment settings • Implementation of state process for reviewing residential treatment providers to ensure compliance with these standards • Requirement that residential treatment facilities offer MAT on site or facilitate access off site.

1115 SUD Waiver Requirements

Milestones

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CMS SUD 1115 MILESTONES	EXPLANATION
4. Sufficient provider capacity at critical levels of care, including for medication for addiction treatment for OUD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completion of assessment of the availability of providers enrolled in Medicaid and accepting new patients in the critical levels of care throughout the State (or at least in participating regions of the state), including those that offer MAT
5. Implementation of comprehensive treatment and prevention strategies to address opioid misuse and OUD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of opioid prescribing guidelines, along with other interventions, to prevent opioid misuse• Expanded coverage of, and access to, naloxone for overdose reversal• Implementation of strategies to increase utilization and improve functionality of prescription drug monitoring programs
6. Improved care coordination and transitions between levels of care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of policies to ensure residential and inpatient facilities link beneficiaries, especially those with OUD, with community-based services and supports following stays in these facilities

Impact to Members

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- Improved access to SUD residential and outpatient services
- Improved treatment services through higher clinical standards
- Focus on key healthcare outcomes related to SUD:
 - Follow up after emergency room visits to make sure someone entered treatment
 - Follow up after hospitalization to make sure someone connects to the next level of care
- Access to Medication for Addiction Treatment

Federal Reporting

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- In August, Connecticut submitted its first required quarterly report under the Demonstration to CMS.
- Once CMS reviews and accepts the report, it will be posted on the federal CMS website at:
<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demo/demonstration-and-waiver-list/110976>
- In August, Connecticut also submitted its formal monitoring protocol to CMS. The protocol outlines the quantitative metrics and reporting schedule that the State will follow under the Demonstration.

1115 SUD Waiver Requirements

Federal Performance Metrics Included in Connecticut's submitted Protocol

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Goal	Federal Metrics Connecticut Will Include in CMS Reports
Assessment of need and qualification for SUD treatment service	<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Medicaid Beneficiaries with SUD Diagnosis (monthly) – Required4. Medicaid Beneficiaries with SUD Diagnosis (annually) – Required5. Medicaid Beneficiaries Treated in an IMD for SUD – Required
Milestone 1: Access to critical levels of care for OUD and other SUDs	<ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Number of beneficiaries enrolled in the measurement period receiving any SUD treatment service, facility claim or pharmacy claim during the measurement period – Required7. Number of beneficiaries who used early intervention services (such as procedure codes associated with SBIRT) – Required8. Outpatient Services – Required9. Intensive Outpatient and Partial Hospitalization Services – Required10. Residential and Inpatient Services – Required11. Withdrawal Management – Required12. Medication-Assisted Treatment – Required36. Average Length of Stay in IMDs – Required

1115 SUD Waiver Requirements

Federal Performance Metrics

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Goal	Federal Metrics Connecticut Will Include in CMS Reports
Milestone 2: Use of evidence-based, SUD-specific patient placement criteria	5. Medicaid Beneficiaries Treated in an IMD for SUD - Required 36. Average Length of Stay in IMDs - Required
Milestone 3: Use of nationally recognized SUD-specific program standards to set provider qualifications for residential treatment facilities	There are no CMS-provided metrics related to Milestone 3. The State will be working in partnership with Advanced Behavioral Health (ABH) to certify residential providers and monitor their alignment with ASAM 3 rd Edition and the State's program standards.

1115 SUD Waiver Requirements

Federal Performance Metrics

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Goal	Federal Metrics Connecticut Will Include in CMS Reports
<p>Milestone 4: Sufficient provider capacity at critical levels of care, including medication-assisted treatment for OUD</p>	<p>13. SUD Provider Availability – Required 14. SUD Provider Availability MAT – Required</p>
<p>Milestone 5: Implementation of comprehensive treatment and prevention strategies to address opioid abuse and OUD</p>	<p>15. Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence Treatment – Required 18. Use of Opioids at High Dosage in Persons Without Cancer – Required 21. Concurrent Use of Opioids and Benzodiazepines – Required 22. Continuity of Pharmacotherapy for Opioid Use Disorder – Required Q1. Total Number of PDMP Users Q2. Number of Controlled Prescriptions in PDMP Q3. Number of gateway requests allowing community care team members access to data directly including corrections facility, hospital, emergency departments, and other users</p>

1115 SUD Waiver Requirements

Federal Performance Metrics

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Goal	Federal Metrics Connecticut Will Include in CMS Reports
<p>Milestone 6: Improved care coordination and transitions between levels of care</p>	<p>17. Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Mental Illness or Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence – Required</p>
<p>Other SUD-related metrics</p>	<p>23. Emergency Department Utilization for SUD per 1,000 Medicaid Beneficiaries – Required</p> <p>24. Inpatient Stays for SUD per 1,000 Medicaid Beneficiaries – Required</p> <p>25. Readmissions Among Beneficiaries with SUD – Required</p> <p>26. Overdose Deaths (count) – Required</p> <p>27. Overdose Deaths (rate) – Required</p> <p>32. Access to Preventive/ Ambulatory Health Services for Adult Medicaid Beneficiaries with SUD – Required</p> <p>33. Grievances Related to SUD Treatment Services – Recommended</p> <p>34. Appeals Related to SUD Treatment Services – Recommended</p>

1115 SUD Waiver Requirements Evaluation Design

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- DSS submitted the 1115 Evaluation Design to CMS in October 2022
- The Evaluation Design is a document that describes how a state will measure the outcomes of the 1115 SUD Waiver.
- The primary purpose of the evaluation is to determine whether the demonstrations are achieving their stated goals for each demonstration policy.
- The Evaluation Design includes, but is not limited to:
 - Waiver goals.
 - Questions and hypotheses to measure the goals.
 - Evaluation methodology.
 - Target and comparison populations.



ASAM Certification Development and Monitoring

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Additional Resources

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- Information about this Demonstration is posted to the DSS website at this link: <https://ct.gov/dss/SUD1115>
- Subscribe to updates on this Demonstration

Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment

Overview

Goals and Milestones

Meeting Schedule

Related Resources

Overview

Submission to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) - Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver

[Click this link to subscribe to updates regarding this project.](#)

Thank you!

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QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

