Emergency Department Working Group

Monday November 13, 2023 4:00-5:00pm

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Christopher Moore, Michael Holmes, Craig Mittleman, Renee Malaro, Anumeha Singh, Beth Liebhardt, Brian Sullivan, Barbara Cass, Dock Fox, Jennifer Martin, John Brancato, Johnathan Bankoff, Lara Minotti, Mag Morelli, Matt Barrett, Susan J Halpin, Daniel Freess, Phil Davis, Rebekah Heckmann

DPH Staff: Melia Allan, Miriam Miller

Introductions

- Introductions of members who were not present at the previous meeting
- Approval of the minutes from the first meeting – Michael Holmes made a motion, and Barbara Cass seconded the motion

Discussion of Mission Statement

- Chris briefly recapped the mission statement
- Craig Mittleman asked if it would be helpful to consolidate the last statement by using the word "access" to care
    - Chris tabled the approval and asked Craig to draft his edits, will return to this later

Discussion of Data and Measurements

- Co-chairs have been working both with DPH and with CHA to get data on emergency department beds
    - Barbara Cass gave an update on the data that DPH does and does not collect relating to emergency departments
    - She recommended connecting further with CHA
- Craig asked about length of stay in emergency departments, but boarding definition may be different
    - Most places have boarding data – is this provided to CHA?
- Dock Fox plans to reach out to a Laura Fox for national data on emergency nursing to see what is missing in Connecticut
- Michael: we may have to do a survey with this group to collect our own data
- What electronic health record services are doctors using?
    - EPIC, Cerner
- John Brancato: on a definition standpoint, we need to have more uniform definitions, so we have a better picture of the burden

- Lara suggested that the group separate psychiatric patients from other EDs, as not to skew results
- Using the time stamp of the admission order is fairly uniform, also consider time until the decision is made – potentially having a parallel measure for total length of stay
- Trying to avoid unintended consequences of boarding measures
- Johnathan Bankoff – his decision to admit is an earlier one
- Craig – worried about a huge variability between systems when it comes to measurement
- Anumeha Singh – regardless of gaming the system, total length of stay and the decision to admit a patient are both consistent
- Craig – brought up the ED benchmarking alliance (has data for over 2,000 EDs), might be a good source to compare to for definitions
- How do we best make this data accessible to the public?
- Jennifer: perhaps we could incorporate this data into a future report?

Brainstorming Issue Areas to Focus On

- Chris' flow chart of areas that the group may look at and intervene on
- Rebekah: Even the definition of treatment space is not consistent across states
- Susan Halpin – in the diagram, she was looking for reference to the new urgent crisis centers esp wrt with behavioral health
    - One of their missions was to provide relief to the emergency rooms
    - The UCCs are generally only accessible until age 18, but still worth including that on the chat
- Sue - Discussion of working with the ambulance providers to direct people to certain facilities, rather than the emergency room
- Barbara: Problem we need to really focus on is how do we get to the ED issues and get those numbers down
- Rebekah: CMS has retired some measures, but there will be a national data tool opening by CMS in the coming weeks
- Barbara – did the group want to make a recommendation for a public dashboard
    - Dr. Mittleman worries that this data could disadvantage certain hospitals, and wants to be cautious
    - Dock – is there a way for hospitals to submit data anonymously?
    - Jennifer – the average length of stay was just published, it allows leaders to see where they sit in comparison

Discussion of Subgroups and Working Group Structure

- Chris shared screen with Michael's org chart, containing potential subgroups:
- Committee on quality measures, chairs Chris Moore and Rebekah Heckman
    - Who is willing to serve on this sub committee alongside Chris and Rebekah
- Discharge Units
    - Jonathan Bankoff is willing to help (but did not volunteer to chair)
    - Discussion of ED discharge versus in-patient discharge – Daniel Freess believes this is a mistake

- Evaluation of % who are held in the ED after being admitted to hospital
  - No chair(s) yet
- Reduction in liability for hospitals/EDs
  - No chair(s) yet

Logistics, Resources, and Action Items

- Chris will upload additional documents into the google drive, email Melia or Chris if you are unable to access the drive
- Action item: Please email the co-chairs if you are willing to help on a sub committee, these will meet separately from the main working group

Closing

- The next meeting will be held on December 11, from 4-5pm on Zoom.
- The meeting adjourned at 4:59pm.