

Idaho Behavioral Health Plan

Follow-up Report Highlights

October 2018

Next steps for the Idaho Behavioral Health Plan depend on how well the plan coordinates with a new model of inpatient care.

Every behavioral health managed care contract in the nation except Idaho's has made a contractor responsible to provide both inpatient and outpatient behavioral health care. The Department of Health and Welfare reported that it excluded inpatient care from the Idaho Behavioral Health Plan so the contractor could focus on the overuse of psychosocial rehabilitation.

Recommendation: The Department of Health and Welfare should formally evaluate whether including inpatient services in the Idaho Behavioral Health Plan has merit.

The department has not conducted an evaluation; however, it has taken steps to address components of an evaluation:



Goals for behavioral healthcare

The department's primary criterion will be the coordination of outpatient care with inpatient care managed by new regional care organizations.



Choices available to the department

If the department does not observe an improved coordination of care, it may put the management of outpatient services up for bid to find a new contractor. The department could also consolidate inpatient and outpatient services in a statewide plan or it could seek to consolidate services at a regional level.



Expectations for key measures

The department has identified formal measures to assess its goals. These measures include rates of follow-up appointments after hospitalization for mental illness and readmission after discharge. The department will also monitor the contractor's (Optum Idaho's) meaningful participation in coordinating with regional care organizations.



Third-party expertise

The department has engaged specialists such as the Oregon Health and Science University and Health Management Associates for subject-matter expertise.

Remaining components

In addition to formally documenting the components discussed above, two components of the evaluation have not been addressed: Assess risks and barriers for the chosen model of services and clearly identify resources needed to ensure the model is successful.



New model of inpatient care

The Division of Medicaid is seeking to consolidate the delivery of inpatient behavioral health care under regional care organizations.

Though managed separately, the division expects the coordination between inpatient and outpatient services to improve, with Optum Idaho—the Idaho Behavioral Health Plan contractor—taking an active role.

Regional care organizations

In January 2018 the department initiated a program intended to make major changes in the way Medicaid benefits are delivered. This program, known as Healthy Connections Value Care, will encourage physicians, hospitals, and other stakeholders to form a cooperative structure within their region, known as a regional care organization.

View the report:
www.legislature.idaho.gov/ope/

