



Medicaid Waiver: Register for Meeting on February 24 with DOH and Potential Partners

Registration is now [available online](#) for our February 24 meeting with DOH on the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program, a key component of New York's proposed Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) waiver. This program is designed to help members understand potential opportunities in the DSRIP program, and strategize with potential partners to prepare to submit projects once the opportunity is made available.

The meeting is cosponsored with the **Healthcare Association of New York State, Home Care Association of New York State, Community Health Care Association of New York State, and Mental Health Association in New York State**. Through this joint effort, members will have the opportunity to network with a variety of provider types, including hospitals, primary care and behavioral health providers. A clear theme of the proposed MRT waiver is collaboration with other types of providers, and once the waiver is approved we anticipate providers will have a relatively short time to prepare applications and collaborate with community partners. Thus, all interested members are strongly encouraged to participate in the February 24 meeting. [Click here](#) to view an agenda.

The meeting will be held from 2 to 4:30 p.m. live at the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) Rensselaer office and *broadcast* to the offices of Iroquois Healthcare Alliance in Syracuse, Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council, Rochester Regional Healthcare Association, and Western New York Healthcare Association. A similar meeting in New York City will be scheduled soon. Participation is free to LeadingAge NY members, but participants must register by Feb. 20, 2014.

The program includes a presentation on the proposed MRT waiver by DOH and examples of successful multi-provider collaborations by the different associations. After the broadcast, locally-facilitated conversations on collaboration will occur at each of the viewing sites.

In preparation, members are urged to review the revised [DSRIP plan](#) and [Managed Care/State Plan Amendment overview](#) documents DOH sent to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on January 30. These documents were revised and updated as a result of comments solicited from stakeholders in December and January and ongoing conversations with CMS. LeadingAge NY submitted substantial comments and is analyzing the updated documents; however we have amended our summary of the proposals based on our initial review. Members can access that summary document [here](#).

Background

The MRT waiver represents the state's effort to make a vital re-investment in the transformation of the health care system. The state anticipates getting final approval from CMS soon to implement the DSRIP program, which is just one aspect of the amended waiver. Through the DSRIP, providers will implement one or more projects designed to achieve the state's goal of reducing potentially preventable hospitalizations. If successful in achieving certain benchmarks, the participants will

receive an incentive payment at different intervals. Data collection is a key aspect of this initiative. Projects are outlined in the aforementioned DSRIP plan.

DOH has indicated that collaboration with other health care provider organizations in their community will be an important emphasis of the DSRIP program, so eligible providers will need to develop proposals that identify and work with other health care providers to achieve DSRIP goals. Again, the fundamental focus of the DSRIP is to reduce or prevent hospitalizations.

While “safety net provider” has not yet been defined for the purposes of DSRIP, Medicaid providers that believe they may qualify or want to partner with a qualified organization are encouraged to send appropriate staff to our February 24 meeting with DOH. The DSRIP plan specifically mentions opportunities for nursing homes, home care providers, and managed long term care providers, with the possibility for assisted living program participation as well. In a recent briefing, Jason Helgersen indicated that any Medicaid provider that is able to work to achieve the objectives of the DSRIP could potentially participate. That being said, the DSRIP proposal does indicate certain provider types as “leads” on projects.

Conclusion

We encourage members to consider participation in this program to be prepared to apply to submit a project for the DSRIP program, once it is available. The timeframes outlined in the DSRIP plan are very aggressive. While some of the details of the program are being negotiated between DOH and CMS currently, we believe that once the opportunity is made available, there will be a very short timeframe to develop a proposal and submit. The amended DSRIP proposal indicates that DOH hopes to receive CMS approval for the waiver by early March, and have planning applications due by April 4. In order to take advantage of this opportunity, your organization should be having discussions now. [Click here](#) for the most recent information available on the DSRIP, which supplements the aforementioned summary document. The DOH website with resources about the DSRIP and other aspects of the waiver can be accessed [here](#). Registration and details about the event are available [here](#).

If you have any questions about the DSRIP, you may contact Diane Darbyshire at ddarbyshire@leadingageny.org, or Dan Heim, dheim@leadingageny.org; both can be reached at 518-867-8383.