

Minutes - DC HBX Standard Plans Working Group, Meeting #1, September 17, 2024

The meeting introduced Claire Heyison as the new chair and Dock Winston as the vice chair of the Standard Plans Working Group. The group aims to address health equity by modifying DC Health Link standard plans to eliminate cost-sharing for conditions disproportionately affecting people of color. The Plan Year 2026 discussion will focus on HIV and Adult mental health (to be considered once the draft 2026 actuarial value calculator (AVC) is released by CMS).

The group heard a presentation on HIV prevalence in DC, highlighting disparities among black communities and sexual and gender minorities. Recommendations include low or no cost-sharing for HIV prevention and treatment drugs and labs. The group also heard a presentation on adult mental health and recommendations for reduced cost sharing for needed services and prescription drugs.

Attendees

| LAST NAME | FIRST NAME | Organization |
|---------------|------------|-----------------|
| Heyison | Claire | SPWG Chair |
| Winston | Dock | SPWG Vice Chair |
| Lake | Keith | AHIP |
| Blake | Nikki | CareFirst |
| Bream | Cory | CareFirst |
| Neimiller | Jason | CareFirst |
| Orlaskey | Peter | CareFirst |
| Sucher | Greg | CareFirst |
| Parcham | Cheryl | Families USA |
| Chuang | Stephen | KP |
| Mangiaracino | Allison | KP |
| Prasad | Kakia | KP |
| Saad | Samantha | KP |
| Davis | Janice | Living Capital |
| Akier | Daniel | UHC |
| Blecher | Keith | UHC |
| Liebers | Howard | DISB |
| Beard | Andre | HBX |
| Kempf | Purvee | HBX |
| O'Brien | Ellen | HBX |
| Senkewicz | MaryBeth | HBX |
| Adomshick | Mary | Oliver Wyman |
| Scharl | Peter | Oliver Wyman |
| Feleke-Eshete | Lienna | Whitman-Walker |
| Beeson | Jennifer | HBX |
| Whittier | Kelly | HBX |

Action items

- SPWG members should send any comments, questions or ideas about the presentations to Andre Beard by Friday
- HBX to bring back information on HIV patients' insurance coverage and ADAP enrollment, cost sharing assistance.
- HBX/Lienna Feleke Eshete to confirm issues related to coverage of substance use disorder in the adult mental health scenario.
- Reconvene next Tuesday for an AV analysis presentation on HIV by the HBX actuarial consultants at Oliver Wyman

Overview of Standard Plans Working Group, *Claire Heyison*

- The group is tasked with addressing health equity and modifying the design of DC Health Link standard plans to eliminate cost sharing for medical care, prescription drugs, supplies, and related services that disproportionately affect patients of color in DC.
- The group has focused on diabetes, cardiovascular disease, mental health, HIV, and cancers of the breast, prostate, colon, and lung for adults, and pediatric mental health for children.
- The 2026 plan design includes potential additions of HIV and adult mental health conditions.
- The group aims to complete the work and arrive at a recommendation for the HBX Executive Board by the November 19, 2024.
- Cheryl Fish-Parcham asks if substance use disorder services are considered as part of adult mental health.
- Lienna Feleke-Eshete confirmed that substance use disorder services are included and will be discussed further.

Presentation on HIV Coverage Needs

- Lienna Feleke-Eshete (Whitman Walker Institute) presented on evaluating coverage needs for HIV among adults in the district, using methodologies similar to those for cardiovascular disease and pediatric mental health.
- The presentation includes an analysis of publicly available data, clinical guidelines, qualitative interviews with providers, and EMR data from Whitman Walker Health.
- Key findings include high prevalence of HIV in DC, and significant disparities among black communities and sexual and gender minorities.
- The presentation highlights the importance of addressing cost as a barrier to care and recommends low or no cost sharing for HIV prevention and treatment drugs and labs.

Discussion and Questions on HIV Coverage

- Question about the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) and its coverage for HIV drugs.
- ADAP covers a comprehensive range of drugs; more information can be provided at next meeting.
- Ellen O'Brien will look into the specifics of ADAP coverage and its impact on the exchange population.

Presentation on Adult Mental Health Coverage

- Lienna Feleke-Eshete presents on evaluating coverage needs for mental and behavioral health among adults in the district, using similar methodologies as for HIV.
- Key findings include an increase in prevalence of mental illness and substance abuse since 2020, with 26% of adults reporting having a mental illness and 71% of adults with mental illness in the District being privately insured.
- The presentation highlights disparities among black residents and sexual and gender minority populations, with higher rates of substance use and unmet needs for counseling or therapy due to cost.
- Recommendations include low or no cost sharing for medication and regular therapy visits, with a focus on group therapy for adults.

Discussion and Questions on Adult Mental Health Coverage

- A question is raised about whether Whitman Walker Health providers recommended a specific number of visits for adult mental health coverage, similar to the seven visits recommended for HIV.
- Lienna Feleke-Eshete confirms that providers recommended around 20 visits and mentions that more detailed information can be provided.

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

- The next meeting is scheduled for the following Tuesday, with Oliver Wyman presenting on AV analysis for the HIV scenario.