
Integrated Managed Care Early Warning System Workgroup

The Early Warning System (EWS) uses both data and regular communication to track the transition to integrated managed care (IMC) regionally, enabling rapid feedback and identification of potential transition-related issues.

The EWS was developed in the Southwest Washington region in 2016 and is currently being used in the North Central region. The Health Care Authority (HCA) advises each region to create an EWS Workgroup that will be responsible for overseeing the EWS at the local level. This fact sheet provides guidance on the purpose and scope of work of an EWS Workgroup, as well as suggested participants and size of the group.

What is the purpose of an EWS Workgroup?

An EWS Workgroup provides recommendations that will inform the development of EWS metrics, participates in a monthly webinar review of EWS metrics, and participates once a week in an implementation-focused phone call led by HCA.

What kind of work is this going to entail? What will the workload be?

The EWS Workgroup will be responsible for overseeing the development and operation of an EWS in the region, as well as collaborating and coordinating with regional stakeholders to resolve issues that may arise from the transition to integrated managed care.

Specific tasks include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Reviewing standard indicators that HCA will collect and report on for each region.
- Discuss additional indicators to include in the EWS, to be collected, analyzed, and reported at the local level.
- Collecting baseline data for any selected “non-standard” indicators.
- Participating in weekly IMC check-in calls in January 2019, (participants will include HCA, apparently successful bidder managed care plans, the Behavioral Health-Administrative Service Organization (BH-ASO), and behavioral health providers.
- Participating in monthly webinars from February to July 2019, where HCA will report the EWS data.

Who should participate in the workgroup? How large should the workgroup be?

To ensure the EWS Workgroup represents the interests of affected regional stakeholders while remaining as effective as possible, HCA recommends that the EWS Workgroup have between 15 and 25 participants.

HCA strongly encourages representation from the following organizations:

- Apparently successful bidder managed care plans
- BH-ASO
- Behavioral Health Organization (BHO)
- HCA
- Consumer representative (or family member)
- Physical health providers
- Behavioral health providers (including both chemical dependency and mental health)
- Accountable Community of Health
- Criminal justice
- Behavioral health ombuds

For additional questions about the Early Warning System Workgroup, please contact Samantha Zimmerman at Samantha.Zimmerman@hca.wa.gov.