

Comer Family Foundation

Development of the Medical Home Network for Medicaid Patients on the South Side of Chicago (2008-2011)

The Client:

Comer Family Foundation

The Challenge:

Despite having made a significant investment in a children's hospital on the South Side of Chicago, the Comer Family Foundation was concerned that anecdotal evidence indicated that low-income children on the South Side were still having great difficulty accessing both primary healthcare and medical sub-specialty services.

The Approach:

Health Management Associates (HMA) was engaged in early 2008 by the Foundation to develop a rational approach to assure access to a comprehensive set of health services for children enrolled in the Medicaid program who live on the South Side of Chicago. HMA facilitated the development of the Medical Home Network (MHN) which included the following steps:

1. Assess the utilization of services for Medicaid enrollees to identify specific geographic and services gaps and duplications.
2. Formed regional networks of providers (public and private) to cover the large area.
3. Work with the providers to identify the model of care to be delivered, including expanding access to County-delivered specialty services.
4. Work with the State Medicaid agency to obtain federal funds as a match to the Foundation's ongoing contribution and to develop a plan for sharing savings that would result from the management of patients (now expanded to all Medicaid enrollee categories).
5. Assist the Foundation to build an organizational structure and recruit a full-time staff to manage the MHN.

The Results:

The Medical Home Network is now a Medicaid accountable care organization in Illinois. It is composed of three safety-net hospitals (including a large academic medical center), three hospital-employed physician groups, and nine FQHCs serving the target population. MHN has established innovative technology to connect all providers and deliver real-time utilization data for the 180,000 Medicaid enrollees in a local health plan, half of whom are managed by a Medical Home Network ACO primary care provider. MHN has improved access to health care services and improved care coordination while reducing cost and fragmentation. A principal from HMA now serves as the part-time MHN Chief Medical Officer.

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