

Proposed Behavioral Health Value-Based Payment Roadmap: 2018-2021

Executive Summary

King County is working with behavioral health (BH) agencies, managed care organizations (MCO), and other stakeholders to meet a statewide statutory goal of transitioning 90 % of provider payments in State-financed health care programs by 2021 to Value-Based Payment (VBP). The goal of this VBP Roadmap is to articulate an achievable pathway to make this transition to ensure BH agencies continue to provide comprehensive and culturally competent behavioral health services and are ready to manage additional financial risk in more advanced risk-sharing payment arrangements.

This proposed King County Behavioral Health VBP Roadmap defines value as the ability to reach performance measures across access, quality and outcome dimensions. Outcome dimensions include both clinical improvement and management of high-cost crisis and hospital services.

This proposed VBP Roadmap is designed to align existing and newly developing incentive-based pilot programs in King County with this broader VBP Roadmap, including the Outpatient Treatment on Demand (OTOD) and the newly created BH Agency service encounter payment incentive. Further, with input from MCOs and key stakeholder groups, it will align measures across funding mechanisms and timelines as much as possible.

The Roadmap articulates 5 different service categories:

- Outpatient behavioral health and substance use disorder services
- Long –term carveouts (e.g., residential, supportive housing, PACT, ORSC/FIRST, Wraparound, ECS, FISH, ICMT, MAT)
- Crisis services (e.g., crisis/involuntary commitment, mobile crisis, CCORS, crisis diversion, crisis respite, detox)
- Inpatient psychiatric services
- Transition services (engagement in subsequent outpatient care following incarceration or hospitalization)

The Roadmap proposes to begin the process of transitioning to VBP with outpatient services, which comprises approximately half of the total behavioral health expenditures within King County Medicaid funding. For these services, the Roadmap calls for the development of a "Value-Based Case Rate" that builds on the existing case rate structure, providing incentives for implementation and reporting of identified metrics starting in 2018 and performance on the metrics starting in 2019.

The Roadmap also outlines processes to transition the additional BH services into the value-based payment structure. These transitions will be phased in to enable the County and stakeholders to design episode- and value-based payment methods for the broad service categories (i.e., inpatient, crisis, carveouts, transition services) of which many component services are current reimbursed on a fee-for-service or per diem basis.

Finally, the VBP Roadmap includes a pathway to develop a shared savings option for BH agencies. Details of the shared savings contracts would be developed in 2018, with the general construct being gainsharing and downside risk for BH agency management of inpatient and emergency service utilization.