Minnesota’s SIM Evaluation Efforts

In February 2013 Minnesota was one of six states (Minn., Mass., Maine, Vt., Ore., Ark.) awarded a federal testing grant of $45 million to implement the Minnesota Accountable Health Model over 3 1/2 years. The project is a joint effort between the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department of Health (MDH) with support from Governor Mark Dayton’s office. The grant is part of the State Innovation Model (SIM) Initiative through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI).

The goal is to use these funds to drive health care reform in the state and to test new ways of delivering and paying for health care through the Minnesota Accountable Health Model. Through this initiative, Minnesota will strive to ensure that every Minnesotan has the option to receive team-based, coordinated, patient-centered care that increases and facilitates access to medical care, behavioral health care, long-term care and other services while reducing costs.

Involvement in this project requires Minnesota to participate in rapid-cycle evaluation efforts at both the state and federal level.

**Federal Evaluation Activities**

RTI International—together with its subcontractors, The Urban Institute, the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP), Truven Health Analytics (Truven), and The Henne Group (THG)—was selected by CMMI to conduct an independent evaluation of the SIM Initiative across all six test states. For the test states, the RTI team will evaluate whether the payment and service delivery models and strategies implemented under the SIM Initiative succeed in improving health outcomes, increasing the quality of care, and lowering health care costs. RTI will also seek to identify characteristics of state models, participating providers, patient populations, and health care markets that affect the impact of the initiative.

Minnesota will work closely with RTI as they conduct the federal evaluation efforts within the state; however, RTI’s activities are separate and independent from state evaluation efforts.

Questions regarding the Federal Evaluation can be directed to RTI project director, Leslie Greenwald, at lgreenwald@rti.org or 410-448-2611.

**State Evaluation Activities**

The State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC), housed within the Division of Health Policy and Management in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota, will provide state evaluation services to the Minnesota Departments of Human Services (DHS) and Health (MDH) as outlined in the approved state evaluation plan.

Minnesota’s self-evaluation will focus on initial and interim markers of implementation, process and outcomes. Utilizing Minnesota’s driver diagram, the State’s self-evaluation will align with each of the five drives and contain test questions for each section of work.

Questions regarding Minnesota’s State Evaluation can be directed to Hannah Fairman, at 651-431-2852 or hannah.fairman@state.mn.us.