



## **NAMD/SHVS Holds Workshop to Support State Behavioral Health Integration**

**January 2015**

In December, the National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD) conducted a workshop to support states in their efforts to improve the delivery of care in Medicaid for those with behavioral health conditions by facilitating a more rational, accessible and cost-effective delivery system. This workshop, which brought eight state teams together, was made possible through the support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's State Health and Value Strategies program (SHVS). State teams were composed of Medicaid agency officials, as well as staff from sister state agencies responsible for addressing mental health and substance use disorders.

Over two days, participants shared with one another their state's approach to deliver person-centered care for those with behavioral health conditions in the context of their state Medicaid program and its populations. These integration approaches ranged from comprehensive risk-based models and health home approaches to accountable care organizations. Across these models, states discussed the challenges and the most effective approaches to promote integration. States shared the steps they are taking to ensure providers, plans and other entities are best equipped to provide access to high quality care that meets beneficiaries' needs.

States also discussed a range of key integration issues and challenges, including:

- Effective quality measurement in integrated care models.
- Data sharing and barriers to information exchange, including federal barriers around substance use disorder treatment information.
- Working across agencies to improve integration.
- The use of peer supports and other non-traditional workforce approaches in behavioral health integration efforts.

The workshop included a dialogue with Medicaid's federal partner, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), exploring the agency's efforts to support states in

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behavioral health integration. CMS staff shared how its Innovation Accelerator Program is providing assistance around substance use disorders and will soon support work on mental and physical health integration.

Following the workshop, NAMD and SHVS began a series of virtual learning opportunities around behavioral health integration to further support workshop participants, as well as all states in their integration efforts.

For more information about NAMD's work on behavioral health integration, please contact Lindsey Browning at [lindsey.browning@medicaidirectors.org](mailto:lindsey.browning@medicaidirectors.org) or 202-403-8626.