ACAP
Association for Community Affiliated Plans

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Association for Community Affiliated Plans' Efforts on Social Determinants of Health

Safety Net Health Plans have demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing Medicaid and Medicare enrollees' social determinants of health. ACAP has undertaken the following activities to observe, record, promote, and support this critical work, and regularly finds ways to highlight our plans' efforts by way of presentations at meetings, roundtable calls, and webinars.

ACAP Has Published a Series of Reports on Safety Net Health Plan Work to Address Social Determinants of Health. Since 2014, ACAP has published four reports highlighting the investments our member Safety Net Health Plans have made to address Medicaid enrollees' needs beyond access to traditional health care services. They include:

- **Where Education, Employment, and Health Meet** (May 2019) delves into ACAP-plans initiatives around nurture educational attainment and employment opportunities for their Medicaid enrollees as means to positively impact their health
- **Breaking the Health and Housing Silos to Address Chronic Homelessness** (June 2018) explores the overlap between Medicaid and housing policy and provides case studies of several SNHP interventions related to chronic homelessness.
- **Bridging the Health and Housing Gap** (November 2017) discusses how SNHPs are developing ways to prevent homelessness for people leaving institutional health care settings by developing transitional housing programs.
- **Positively Impacting Social Determinants of Health: How Safety Net Health Plans Lead the Way** (2014) provides examples of Safety Net Health Plan interventions that impact their members' health by impacting other, non-health care circumstances.

ACAP & CHCS Findings

- Many state contracts with MCOs address social determinants of health but fail to clarify how MCOs can flexibly address social determinants.
- Few state contracts include payment incentives when setting goals for social determinants of health.
- Many §1115 demonstrations utilize care coordination and cross-sector partnerships among community-based organizations, providers, and MCOs to address social determinants.
- States jumpstart delivery system reforms with incentive payments and value-based payment initiatives.

ACAP Has Commissioned Key Research on State Medicaid Policy on Social Determinants of Health. In late 2018, ACAP published a study by the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS), **Addressing Social Determinants of Health via Medicaid Managed Care Contracts and 1115 Waivers,** a comprehensive review of state policies that require or incentivize Medicaid health plans to engage in work to address beneficiaries' social determinants of health. The report is recognized as a seminal work on Medicaid and social determinants of health, has been accessed on ACAP's web site by a record number of visitors, and has inspired numerous follow-on studies and discussions.

ACAP and CHCS conducted a public webinar on the report for an audience of nearly 1,000 health policy leaders.

ACAP and CHCS staff also participated in a webinar hosted by the Healthy Schools Campaign in March 2019, and CHCS researchers presented this work at ACAP's 2019 CEO Summit.

ACAP Organized Two Briefings on Capitol Hill. To highlight the link between employment and health care, ACAP held a briefing in September 2019 entitled *How Medicaid Means Jobs for Better Health*. Representatives from CareSource described the Life Services JobConnect Program, and a JobConnect graduate spoke of the program's support in helping him secure full-time employment.

In September 2018, ACAP hosted a standing-room-only Hill briefing called *Health Care Begins with Home: Understanding How Medicaid and Housing Work Together*. Speakers from CareSource, L.A. Care, and UPMC *for You* explained the impact stable housing can have on health and described the diverse methods Safety Net Health Plans are using to provide housing supports to individuals on Medicaid. Staff from key Senate and House Committees attended.

ACAP Is Identifying Sustainable Funding Sources for Social Determinants of Health in the Medicare Advantage Program. ACAP has worked with Healthsperien and our member plans to identify the types of services for social determinants of health and social determinants management activities for which Medicare plans need a sustainable funding source. In March, ACAP presented our preliminary findings to CMS staff which resulted in a policy change from CMS that housing-related service will be permissible supplemental benefits.

In addition, ACAP was recently awarded a $242,000 grant from the Arnold Foundation to conduct a gap analysis of the extent to which D-SNPs can comprehensively address their dual-eligible members' social determinant of health needs through current Medicare Advantage payment sources for social determinant of health services. This project will also involve policy development, where ACAP will convene an expert panel to identify policy options for Congress and CMS to provide D-SNPs with more resources and flexibility to address their enrollees' social determinant of health needs.

MLTSS/Duals Work

- After meeting with ACAP, CMS will allow housing and social determinants of health services to be covered under the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI).
- ACAP has long urged CMS to analyze stratifying some Star Rating measures for social risk factors; in a final call letter, CMS confirmed they are considering that inclusion.
- ACA-supported D-SNP integration criteria will be finalized by CMS, a win for ACAP members in non-MLTSS states and those without MLTSS contracts.
- ACAP held a webinar series on best practices for addressing social determinants of health in MLTSS plans.

ACAP is Holding a Webinar Series on Addressing Medicare Enrollees' Social Determinants of Health. For this webinar series, ACAP is working with our Preferred Vendor partners to develop a series of webinars that feature best practices for management Medicare members' social determinants of health on topics such as nutrition, transportation, and housing.

ACAP is Working to Highlight Our Member Plans' Efforts—Persistently. ACAP is working with MSL, its communications firm, to revisit past profiles of Safety Net Health Plan efforts and repackage them in a

way that will keep them relevant to today. In many cases, we are reaching out to plans and re-reporting some past efforts with an eye toward supplementing them with stories of individual members; in others, we are working to provide additional outcomes data (e.g., members who find employment, lower ED utilization rates, etc.).

ACAP is also continuing to write and develop op-ed pieces to highlight member plans. They include:

- **Local solutions, broad collaboration offer best way to address social determinants of health.** *Modern Healthcare,* February 16, 2019.
- **Health and housing gap for seniors is far larger and more expensive than we think**. The Hill, September 14, 2018.

ACAP Has Cooperated with External Groups to Further Knowledge About Social Determinants of Health. ACAP staff have participated on an advisory basis in several research efforts related to social determinants.

- **NORC and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.** ACAP will partner with NORC on RWJF's effort to develop an MCO Learning Hub and managed care strategy focused on SDOH. ACAP will provide subject matter expertise on Safety Net Health Plans (including Medicare, Medicaid, and Marketplace plans) to inform the learning hub and RWJF's MCO strategy, and will make connections for RWJF to leaders from our membership who can share insights on the challenges and opportunities MCOs face in addressing the SDOH.
- **University of California San Francisco Social Interventions Research and Evaluation Network (SIREN) Dissemination Advisory Committee.** Since early 2018, ACAP staff have participated on this PCORI-funded Advisory Committee to help the SIREN project build capacity to disseminate patient-centric social determinants of health research. SIREN produces syntheses on social determinants interventions in food security, housing, transportation, and other areas.
- **AcademyHealth Advisory Group.** ACAP staff provided advisory input to AcademyHealth in its work with Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to develop a new call for research proposals related to the ways in which states are working with Medicaid managed care organizations to address social determinants of health among enrollees.

ACAP Has Contributed to and Frequently Participates in National MCO Surveys, including surveys by the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Institute for Medicaid Innovation. In the spring of 2019, ACAP joined the Medical Transportation Access Coalition, which aims to educate federal and state policymakers and other stakeholders about the benefits of medical transportation. ACAP has also participated in the SCAN Foundation and Bipartisan Policy Center Supplemental Benefits Roundtables, which focus on how Medicare Advantage plans and Medicare fee-for-service can address Medicare beneficiaries' social determinants of health through supplemental benefits and other mechanisms.

ACAP Has Formulated Policy Recommendations.
As part of our work with CHCS, ACAP published a list of policy recommendations related to Medicaid and social determinants of health. While the ACAP Board has yet to approve a formal policy agenda related to social determinants of health, ACAP has developed several preliminary concepts with the goals of ensuring sustainability and integration of social determinants of health interventions in Medicaid coverage.

Recommendations related to systems and partnerships

- Make it easier for vulnerable populations to access needed health services and care coordination
- Enhance agency collaboration at the federal level

Recommendations related to authority and funding

- Pave a sustainable path post-Delivery System Reform Incentive Program (DSRIP) through Managed Care
- Provide additional guidance on value-added services and in lieu of services
- Provide additional guidance on potential Quality and Performance Improvement (QAPI) activities related to SDOH
- Maintain flexibility under §1115 demonstrations
- Explore outcomes-based payment for SDOH interventions