

Welcome to the NESCSO Updates!

The first quarter of 2015 has come and gone with many exciting new things happening at NESCSO! We've had two new Learning Communities 'kick off' in the past few months with great success and we are looking forward to working more with the New England States as the year progresses. We've made some changes to our website (www.NESCSO.org) so please feel free to peruse at your leisure. Always stay informed with weekly updates in our News Feeds and State Information links and keep up to date on opportunities in the New England region as we learn about and post them. We welcome any suggestions or comments and hope that all the information is useful and easy to find. Thanks for visiting!

Behavioral Health/Medicaid Leadership Network

The Behavioral Health/Medicaid Leadership Network core group and invited guests met in Providence, Rhode Island on April 24, 2015. The sixth meeting of this group since its inception in the spring of 2013, once again focused its attention on "Integrating Treatment & Services" in New England. Attendees explored the Opioid Overdose Dilemma across Region I and received an in depth look at treatment innovations in Vermont and Rhode Island. These regional meetings continue to be co-sponsored by NESCSO and the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Kathryn Power, Region I Regional Administrator for SAMHSA and Betsy Rosenfeld, Regional Health Administrator, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health, kicked off the meeting with a presentation on "The Opioid Overdose Dilemma, Where We are Today and What Lies Ahead." They provided an overview of the Opioid crisis in New England, reframing the problem as an epidemic of addiction. Prevention, rescue, treatment & recovery strategies were shared with this great mix of behavioral health and Medicaid leaders and practitioners.

Resources that were shared at this meeting, including slide presentations, articles, and meeting evaluation results, will be posted and available on the NESCSO web site at www.NESCSO.org

Next Meeting Date: June 26, 2015, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location: StoweLake Mountain Resort, Stowe, VT

Primary Contact: Muriel Littlefield, 207-837-7997, murlit@msn.com

Pharmacological Services Learning Community

The Pharmacological Services Learning Community meets once quarterly and has not yet scheduled its next meeting, however; during the year as articles of interest are published, NESCSO will forward the pertinent information along to the group members accordingly. Information regarding drug costs

and spending in the US, relationships between health plans and pharmacy services, and other relevant reports are shared with the group as they become available and are also posted to our site for reference at any time. Stay tuned for an update on this learning community in the next eNews!

Next Meeting Date: TBD
Location: Teleconference
Agenda Topics: TBD

Primary Contact: Deb Hurwitz, 508-856-4270, debra.hurwitz@umassmed.edu

Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Learning Community

During the last DME Learning Community call on March 9th, the states reviewed a recent CEPAC/ICER report on Diabetes Type 2 Management per Connecticut's request, along with other neighboring state initiatives NESCSO researched. The group also discussed several procedure codes/billing issues related to Outpatient Psychotherapy Services and was interested in hearing about any State Savings Plans that other states currently have or plan to implement in the near future. Connecticut was seeking information from the DME group about state's pricing for manually priced genetic testing codes and appropriate state contact information was shared during the call. The next meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2015. Rhode Island is in the process of updating its Provider Manual and has asked for a review of auto ship language as appropriate. They will also be reviewing any findings from State Implementation Plans and additional information regarding dialysis clinic and fee schedules.

Next Meeting: May 18, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Location: Teleconference (Monique Daigle to host from ME State offices)
Agenda Topics:

- Review of CMS Auto Ship language regulations
- State Implementation Plans
- Payment policy for dialysis clinics/ dialysis fee schedules

Primary Contact: Monique Daigle, 508-856-2851, monique.daigle@umassmed.edu

Health Information Technology (HIT) Learning Community

Led by Hunt Blair, the key participants of the HIT Learning Community, met on April 29th to facilitate setting a clear direction on how best to meet the needs of the member states. Members agreed that the learning community would continue to provide valuable benefits to the states and are currently developing a strategy and structural reorganization for future meetings. Minutes and topic for next meeting will be posted soon.

Last Meeting: April 29, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Location: UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center

Primary Contact: David Huffman, 508-856-6425, david.huffman@umassmed.edu

Eligibility & Enrollment (E&E) Learning Community

The Eligibility and Enrollment Learning Community is currently planning its next in-person group meeting for September of 2015. The group hopes to identify some hot topic issues to review and is looking forward to learning more about the Whole Person Approach model that was shared by New Hampshire during in the last meeting. Networking opportunities provide opportunity to discuss, share and review commonalities and differences within the New England States. NESCSO will provide staff working in Eligibility & Enrollment with helpful resources and information. New members are always welcome and can be included in future meetings by contacting NESCSO directly. Stay tuned for more updates in the next eNews!!

Next Meeting: TBD (tentatively September 2015)
Location: UMass Lowell Inn and Conference Center, Lowell, MA

Primary Contact: Monique Daigle, 508-856-2851, monique.daigle@umassmed.edu

Elderly and Adults with Disabilities Services and Supports (EADSS) Learning Community

The long awaited Elderly and Adults with Disabilities Services and Supports (EADSS) Learning Collaborative will be kicking off its first in-person meeting in the next week! Representatives from each of the New England States are expected to attend, and tentative agenda items include: HCBS Rule presented by Jane Gallivan & Nancy Thaler of The National Association of Developmental Disability Directors (NADDDDS), Financial Alignment Initiative (duals demonstrations) discussion, as well as an Overview of Population and Service Use Trends of Adults in Maine with Intellectual or Autism Spectrum Disorder, given by the Muskie School. Any states wishing to send participants should contact NESCSO directly for information.

Next Meeting: March 5, 2015, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location: UMass Lowell Inn and Conference Center, Lowell, MA.

Primary Contact: Monique Daigle, 508-856-2851, monique.daigle@umassmed.edu

MITA 3.0 Self-Assessment Collaborative

The NESCSO MITA 3.0 workgroup (Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island) continues to push forward with its multi-state collaborative and is the final stages of its pre-planning phase with the support of CMS. Stay up to date on the progress of this collaborative project by visiting the NESCSO site (www.nescso.org)!

Next Meeting: May 1, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Location: Teleconference

Primary Contact: Monique Daigle, 508-856-2851, monique.daigle@umassmed.edu

TRAINING RFI UPDATE

NESCSO is interested in a regional training program that addresses the leadership knowledge and skills needed by staff working in State Health and Human service agencies, including but not limited to Single State Medicaid agencies, to lead in today's complex organization and complex systems environment. RFI responses have been reviewed and will be further addressed at the NESCSO Board meeting in late June.

Primary Contact: Brenda Harvey, 508-856-6056, brenda.harvey@umassmed.edu

If you would like to share the names and contact information of your colleagues who may be interested in any of NESCSO's Learning Communities and/or projects please contact Monique Daigle @ 508-856-2851 or email: monique.daigle@umassmed.edu

Medicaid Enterprise Systems Conference

SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us at the Medicaid Enterprise Systems Conference in Des Moines, Iowa August 17-20, 2015. Each year the conference delivers high quality educational sessions about all aspects of managing a State Medicaid system to operate more efficiently in delivering services. [Click here to go to the MESC website.](#)



Give us a call today!

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STAY CONNECTED

