



## Consumer-Focused Health System Transformation: What are the Policy Priorities?

### Appendix F: Crafting a Roadmap for Your Community—A Checklist

States and local communities vary in where they stand with respect to the recommended policies in the *Policy Roadmap*—a compendium of policies to ensure that the healthcare system works seamlessly with public health, social services and community members to address the goals and needs of the people it serves and advance health equity.

The checklist below can help advocates and others assess their community’s policy strengths and shortcomings when it comes to health system transformation. The checklist prioritizes recommendations that are easier for community members to act on and address with their state and local officials. The online version of this checklist links to websites that can help the reader answer the questions below.



#### **ASSESS people’s unmet physical, behavioral, oral health and social needs, and IDENTIFY GAPS in the community’s capacity to address them**

- Does your state have an all-payer claims database, a dataset that helps understand healthcare use and spending in a state?
- Does your state/local Department of Health report regularly on health disparities in the state or community?
  - o County Health Rankings is a resource that shows that health disparities persist, not only by place, but also by race and ethnicity.
- Does your state have a community benefit reporting requirement for nonprofit hospitals or other nonprofit health institutions?
  - o If yes, what are the requirements for community engagement?
  - o If yes, does the state encourage the nonprofit entity to participate in community-wide health needs assessments?
- All nonprofit hospitals have a federal requirement to complete a Community Health Needs Assessment every three years, and to make the document publicly available. Can this document be readily found on the website(s) of your local hospital(s)?
  - o If yes, do the findings of the document comport with your understanding of the needs in the community?
  - o If yes, is it clear how, as a member of the public, you can engage in the hospital’s assessment process?
  - o From the hospital’s website, is the criteria used to prioritize which unmet needs will be addressed clear?
  - o From the hospital’s website, is there any indication that the hospital coordinated with other hospitals, the local public health department or local Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in the preparation of the Community Health Needs Assessment?
- Similarly, local public health departments must produce State Health Assessments (SHA) and State Health Improvement Plans (SHIP) as a condition of accreditation. Can these document be readily found on the website of your local public health department?
  - o If yes, do the findings comport with your understanding of the needs in the community?
  - o If yes, is it clear how, as a member of the public, you can engage in the process?

### 2 CREATE INTEGRATED SYSTEMS to advance population health

- Has your state pursued a Medicaid 1115 Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) waiver?
- Has your state aligned performance measures with broader health system transformation goals?
  - o For example: Does your state's Health Improvement Plan align with Healthy People 2020 goals?
- Does your community have local initiatives that work across the public health, social services and/or health sectors? Examples include:
  - o Multi-sector collaborations like Accountable Communities for Health
  - o Social-medical models combining healthcare and various social supports
- Does your state or community have a wellness trust fund or similar structure that (a) funds initiatives that work across public health, social services and/or health sectors and (b) captures savings from better health to fund the next round of initiatives?
- Does your state and local community have strong "open meetings" laws to ensure that the public can fully engage in policy discourse? (While all states, the District of Columbia and the federal government have sunshine or "open meeting" laws, these laws vary significantly in scope, detail and enforcement.)
  - o To assess the effectiveness of your local laws, has there been local coverage describing violations of these laws in the last five years?
- To what extent is consumer representation required in health system governance?
  - o Are hospitals required to adopt patient and family advisory councils?
  - o Are healthcare organizations required to have consumers on their board of directors?
- Has your community ever engaged in a participatory budgeting exercise? (Note: U.S. examples of health-related participatory budgeting are rare, but if your community has engaged in other types of participatory budgeting, it might be useful for promoting in the context of health.)

### 3 ENSURE MEANINGFUL ACCESS to care and services that meet people's goals and needs, especially within underserved communities

- Has your state expanded Medicaid?
  - o To 100% FPL for childless adults?
  - o To 138% FPL for childless adults?
  - o More than 138% FPL for childless adults?
- What percent of your state's population is currently without health insurance?
- How often in your state or county do residents go without care due to concerns about cost?
- Does your state use a "no wrong door" approach to health and social benefits?
- How does your state or county rate in terms of provider shortage areas?
  - o Primary Care?
  - o Dental Health?
  - o Mental Health?
- Has your state adopted the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact to better enable physicians to provide telemedicine services across state lines?
- Has your state adopted the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact to better enable nurses to provide telemedicine services across state lines?
- Has your state adopted the Physical Therapy compact to better enable physical therapists to provide telemedicine services across state lines?