

2011 UCEDD TA Institute
UCEDD Region 7 & 8 Health Reform Breakout

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Main ideas:

1. Regions 7 and 8 are comprised of similar red states, where the governments signed onto the ACA, leaving no opportunity for discussion in some states.
2. Some UCEDDs are both healthcare providers and advocacy providers, which leads to perception issues.
3. There are both positive and negative impacts on support services.
4. There is a lack of rules and regulations, yet an overconfidence that ACA will solve issues like payment and access (the autism community in particular, which upsets other DD communities).
5. There are concerns that the cost effectiveness of long-term care services may override other interests.

State of the States

All are red states, with similar issues.

NE: - There are implications of the healthcare reform for maintaining services.
- Joint meetings with the boards of the DD Council and the P&A (educational events) have taken place.

Programs are not well connected – it would help to know what LENDs are doing.

WY: - No managed care
- Department of Health reorganization
- Main challenge – have the trained staff

CO: - Effort for dialogue between different organizations – two meetings have taken place already
- Challenge – coordinated care (long-term care and support) → fee-for-service ruling

Non-providers are better advocates.

What can be done?

- Education
- Technological solutions – NE has launched NEHII (Nebraska Health Information Initiative), which provides the option to elect to have/not have health information electronically stored
 - o Electronic health records better serve people, but require training.
- In NE, behavioral health has expanded into pediatric issues through telehealth, which enhances services and can cut costs.
- NE has many frontier counties; a frontier county (as defined by HRSA) is categorized based on the population figure and on the number of healthcare providers (practitioners available).

Policy

- WY: - Inclusion is not an issue for small states, provided there is better healthcare for everyone.
- CO: - There is an issue with evidence lacking that some services must be part of the healthcare benefits, so there are no consistent outcomes.
- Better contribution to research is needed.
 - Early intervention services are an issue.
 - There is a lack of systematic approach to early intervention services.
- MO: - Involved in the Money Follows the Person initiative
- Needs assessment

ADRC Partnerships

UT: - Starting to reengage

MO: - Partners

AUCD and other national organizations can help improve these partnerships.

Model for Family Support

CO: - Legislation is a burden for families.

- Guidance is lacking.

KS: - Cost effectiveness is affecting our own values. Home living may not always be the best choice. Living out of home should not be discouraged, but can be encouraged

Disability Community

There is a lack of knowledge of what is going to happen.