



## State Technical Assistance

AT THE CENTER FOR EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY

The Center's individual technical assistance projects bring our team together with the state and its staff to achieve goals and predefined objectives. The Center projects team seeks to:

- Be objective, neutral, and apolitical
- Do the work in a manner that brings tools, examples, and evidence to support a state-specific approach
- Extend the capacity of state staff to accomplish the goal at hand
- Help craft state-specific solutions for using the best available evidence
- Maintain the trusting relationships built with states since the Center was founded in 2003

As the state and the Center scope a project together, the following areas of skills and expertise are used:

- Evidence review and analysis
- Convening and facilitation
- Policy research and analysis
- Data analytics for state policy
- Public body staffing and decision making
- Public policy mediation and negotiation
- Tool development
- Mentoring and supporting state staff

### ENGAGING THE CENTER TEAM

If your state is interested in exploring options for technical assistance support, we encourage you to get in touch. The Center will provide quick feedback about whether and how our team might be able to assist. When it is time to proceed, the Center team will work with your state to define a project scope and deliverables to enable conversations within your agency and across agencies. And because the Center works with states across the country, we understand what is involved in state contracting.

For inquiries about technical assistance, please contact the Center at: [centerebp@ohsu.edu](mailto:centerebp@ohsu.edu).

### State Project Examples

#### Pennsylvania

The state of Pennsylvania engaged the Center to develop a vision and plan to reform its approach to health care and adjust for new COVID-19 realities. The effort was led by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Insurance and Governor's office. The resulting recommendations spanned Pennsylvania's health system to achieve cost savings while transi-

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tioning to a regionally driven, whole-person care model that can address gaps in care coordination, affordability, accessibility, and health equity. Some of these approaches included: value-based and performance-based payment options, consolidation of purchasing, cost and rate benchmarks and global budget approaches. On October 2, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf issued an executive order to announce the state's health care reform proposal, including the 3 key recommendations resulting from the Center's work: creation of a state Interagency Health Reform Council, development of Regional Accountable Health Councils to drive local change, and establishment of a Health Value Commission to measure the ongoing cost of care and health outcomes in the Commonwealth.

*Technical assistance skills deployed: Convening and Facilitation, Policy Research and Analysis, Data Analytics for State Policy, Tool Development and Mentoring and Supporting State Staff*

## Texas

Since 2014, the Center has worked with Texas' Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to improve processes that enable evidence-based decision making and improve health outcomes for Texas' most vulnerable populations. The Center helped HHSC design and implement a transparent and rigorous process for making medical and dental coverage decisions responsive to stakeholder needs. To create meaningful engagement, the Center staff conducted surveys and in-person interviews, and group meetings and webinars with internal and external interested parties. Learning the medical and dental coverage development process was difficult to navigate and challenging to access, the Center and State designed an accessible and user-friendly topic nomination process that helps stakeholders work with HHSC to identify topics that are important to them. The Center helped HHSC establish a review process modeled on successful programs in other states but customized for Texas's unique needs and continues to provide ongoing training and technical assistance to HHSC staff.

*Technical assistance skills deployed: Evidence Review and Analysis, Convening and Facilitation, Public Policy Mediation and Negotiation, Tool Development*

## Washington

The Center's technical assistance supported the Washington State Health Care Authority's (HCA) efforts to improve the care provided through Washington's Medicaid program and Employee and Retirement Benefits (ERB) insurance coverage. The Center is currently working with the HCA, and commercial payer partners to support the WA Multi-Payer Collaborative (MPC), a group of privately and publicly funded health insurers focused on the alignment of health care transformation efforts in the state. The first initiative of the collaborative is the development and implementation of Washington's Multi-Payer Primary Care Transformation Model. The model seeks to create better health and better care for patients, smarter spending of public and private health care dollars, and improve clinical experience for providers.

Center staff convene both the MPC and those interested in primary care to shape the developing primary care model. The HCA released an initial overview of the primary care model's main components and is now turning toward implementation in collaboration with Washington's payers and the primary care community. In addition to convening the MPC and stakeholders, Center staff provide policy and analytic support to HCA leaders as they consider implementation of the model for HCA's Medicaid and ERB covered lives.

*Technical assistance skills deployed: Convening and Facilitation, Policy Research and Analysis, Public Body Staffing and Decision-Making, Public Policy Mediation and Negotiation, Tool Development*



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