
From: Rick Brush <rick@wellville.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 5:03 PM
To: Grotheer, Laurence <Laurence.Grotheer@ct.gov>
Subject: CGBTT report comment

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Hi, Laurence,

Please consider the following feedback as my public comment on the Preliminary Recommendations of the Healthcare Cost Growth Benchmark Technical Team, September 2020:

- Improving healthcare affordability for all who live in Connecticut is important, especially for those who experience the greatest economic hardship and other inequities. Continually rising costs have put access to high-quality healthcare out of reach for too many. I understand that it is this sense of urgency that led to Executive Order 5.
- However, establishing annual healthcare cost growth benchmarks must be secondary to establishing statewide goals for equitable health and wellbeing. These goals -- healthier people, greater wellbeing, and eliminating inequities -- must be the state's primary focus. They must be explicitly and publicly stated, with clear accountabilities, action steps and timelines.
- Note that "cost control" can be achieved in different ways. Setting short-term cost control goals will likely prioritize short-term levers that affect unit cost (reducing the price per service or renegotiating payer contracts) and/or utilization (reducing the number of services/procedures). These "downstream" strategies focus on reducing costs at the "point of care," typically after illness has occurred, and are limited to healthcare (clinical) services.
- A more comprehensive and long-term sustainable way to address rising healthcare costs is to invest in "upstream" health-promotion and the prevention of illness in the first place.
- The state has already detailed a visionary and actionable strategy to improve equitable health and wellbeing for all who live in Connecticut: the Health Enhancement Communities (HEC) Initiative. I strongly encourage the state to implement the HEC initiative, as proposed in the final approved version (June 2019).
- In summary, the state should make equitable wellbeing the number one goal and put its support and accountability behind implementation of the HEC initiative, which will reduce unsustainable healthcare costs as a result of better health, not just manipulating prices and

access.

I'm happy to provide additional details or answer questions, as helpful. Looking forward to working together to improve equitable wellbeing for all who call Connecticut home!

Thanks,

Rick

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