

The Role of Public Health Departments in Medicaid Reform

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NCALHD

North Carolina Association
of Local Health Directors

Local Public Health

- There is a local health department agency in each of North Carolina's 100 counties.
- Local health departments are already Medicaid service providers intensely focused on quality improvement, customer service, and improved health outcomes.

Local Public Health

- Local health departments across North Carolina serve more than 100,000 non-duplicated individuals with clinic services each month: 51% are currently on Medicaid.
- Local health departments have been integral to the Medicaid cost savings realized since the creation of Community Care of North Carolina (CCNC). Currently, Obstetrics Care Management (OBCM) and Care Coordination for Children (CC4C) programs are conducted by local public health staff.

Recommendations

- Place telepsychiatry units in rural public health departments.
- Invest in proven evidence-based public health programs like “Nurse Family Partnership”.
- Implement standardized preventive screenings for adults and children in all 100 NC counties.
- Utilize public health “Enhanced Role” nurses to lower cost and improve coordination of care.



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“Evidence indicates public health programs improve health, extend longevity and can reduce healthcare expenditures.”

Health Cost Containment and Efficiencies: Public Health and Cost Savings.
National Conference of State Legislators. Briefs for State Legislators. Number 14. February 2011.