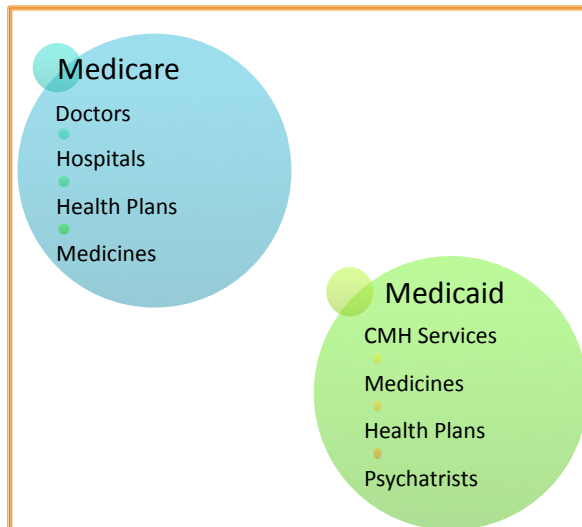


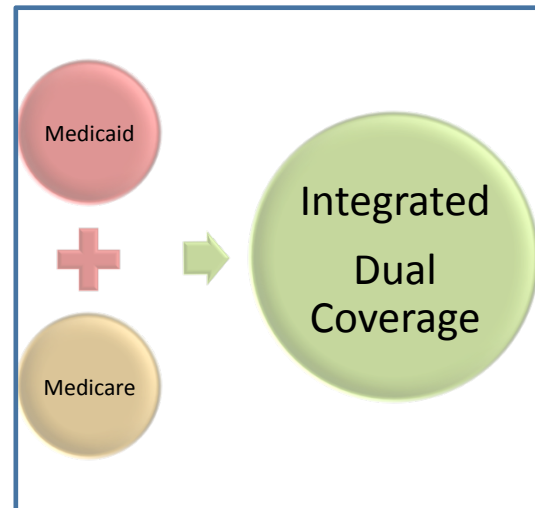
Changes in Healthcare Coverage for people who have both Medicaid and Medicare

Recently, the State of Michigan received money from Washington DC to see if it could make a better system for people that have both Medicare and Medicaid. People who have both types of coverage are referred to as “dual eligibles” or “dual enrollees”. Medicare and Medicaid cover different services, which can lead to confusion and problems with access to care or who should pay for those services.

Current Model:



Proposed Model:



Michigan desires to improve the system so that the services funded by both Medicaid and Medicare work together better to improve care and reduce costs. Michigan’s plan to improve services to dual eligibles could change who coordinates care for those served by Community Mental Health (CMH). The Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards (MACMHB) wants to make sure that its members – the CMH in your local community – continues in its leadership role in planning for and providing essential services.

In response to these plans and possible changes, MACMHB has some ideas about how we think health care is best managed for the people we serve who have dual eligibility:

1. For people covered by Medicaid, the CMH Managed Medicaid System knows how to help connect people to the best quality programs that get great results. Because they work directly with adults, families and children and because CMH does not work for a profit like some companies, they can spend more dollars on the actual supports and services that people need in the community.
2. While there is some overlap between what Medicaid pays for and what Medicare pays for, there are many things that only one or the other will cover. To make this easier, MACMHB would like the State of Michigan to ask for a rule change to allow for Medicare to cover more of the services that Medicaid covers. This should include the full range of services that CMH provides now that helps people remain healthy and live meaningful lives in the community.
3. Those currently working directly with adults, families and children with mental illness, substance abuse, and/or developmental disabilities understand their special needs and are the most prepared to coordinate care under any new plan that is developed by the state.

MACMHB believes that your local community mental health program can best organize services for people with Medicaid and Medicare using models of *care coordination* and *health homes*. In such a system, individuals would have one team of people to help them manage all of the care and supports they need.

*Care Coordination is what happens when professionals work with adults, families and children to make sure they are linked with services and resources that help them have the best possible health. The most important part of this work is the ongoing relationship with the person receiving services. This requires a relationship focused on learning about the needs of the individual, such as life and health goals; past treatment experiences and preferences; and the strengths and resources of the individual as well as the barriers they face. Care coordination makes sure that services are delivered when people need them, in the right amount and at the right place. The care coordinator works in close partnership with social and community supports to support the individual and family at the center of their person-centered care plan. MACMHB believes that the CMH system does this best for the people we serve and that we should keep doing this under any new plan that the state develops.

**Health Home - A place where individuals can come throughout their lifetimes to have their healthcare needs identified and to receive the medical, behavioral and related social services and supports they need, coordinated in a way that recognizes all of their needs as individuals -- not just patients. A health home provides not just medical services, but also builds linkages to other community services that people need such as housing, employment, transportation, and other social supports.



If you have questions or comments about these changes and the ideas MACMHB has to make the system of health care better, please contact your local Community Mental Health. We want to ensure your voice is heard.

Customer Services
800-337-8598 or 231-933-4907

or

Director's Office
231-935-3677

**Note: There are many different definitions for care coordination. This description is how MACMHB sees care coordination working within our CMH system of supports and services.*

***Image from: Bridging the Healthcare Gap: A Community Health Services Plan published by REACH (2007).*