Health Equity Alliance of Long Island (HEALI) Meeting Notes

January 19th, 2022

**1115 Waiver Update**

* New York State Department of Health (DOH) released a new 1115 Waiver concept paper last year.
  + The new concept paper focuses on health equity, recognizes the impact of COVID-19 and gives a strong opportunity for a coalition like HEALI to address the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH).
  + Emily Engle presented the new information to the HEALI coalition.
    - Information from her presentation can be found [here.](https://hwcli.com/work-we-do/coalition-grassroots-organizing/heali/)
  + The concept paper will likely be put in an application for public comment after the budget period (April 1st).
    - Once the application is available for public comment, the HEALI coalition will convene to build a strategy.
  + In November 2021, Naheed Khan from Nassau Community College (NCC) presented information on their free Community Health Worker Program (CHW).
    - Although the concept paper focuses on data and technology, we know that humans need to make referrals and help families navigate the social service and health system.
    - CHW can help organizations build their workforce to serve the community’s needs.
    - HEALI will send a survey next month to assess the CHW landscape on Long Island.
  + Over the next year, HEALI will address data governance and Value Based Payment (VBP) contracting.

**Nuzhat Quaderi from UniteUs/NowPow**

* What is UniteUs/NowPow?
  + They are a SDOH referral platform which ensures that community members across the region have access to information about services and to send closed loop referrals for social care needs.
    - Closing the loop on a referral involves the sending provider receiving a confirmation from the receiving provider after completion of the visit that resulted from the referral.
  + Their service will help reduce the burden on organizations by streamlining the process of sending and receiving referrals.
    - It will also help reduce fragmentation between social care and healthcare providers.
  + Besides UniteUs/NowPow, there is not a platform that has all of the up to date resources available on Long Island.
    - They created a high fidelity, robust resource directory that it easy to use.
      * Organizations can set parameters for their search (i.e., geographic region, nutrition, transportation etc.) and UniteUs/NowPow’s platform will generate resources that are most relevant to that organization.
  + For more complex cases (i.e., behavioral or maternal health), their platform can help track which organizations are best able to serve those needs.
* Master person index
  + If an individual gets a screening done at an organization, their information is saved and can be shared with other organizations.
    - This will help avoid having individuals tell their stories multiple times.
      * Also helps avoid duplicating services.
    - It reduces the burden on the individual and organization.
* In the first quarter (Q1) of this year, they plan to have the resource directory from NowPow be fully available on the UniteUs platform.
  + UniteUs/NowPow has a large team that constantly updates the information on the resource directory by contacting organizations directly.
* In Q2, they will integrate NowPow’s screening capabilities to identify ones needs.
* In Q3, they will focus on providing more community facing options for individuals.
* In Q4, they will build an “intelligent service recommendations” which can help build a resource list for individuals.
* How will UniteUs/NowPow address language accessibility?
  + If an organization has bilingual employees, that will be noted on the resource page.
* When 1115 Waiver application opens for public comment, HEALI can advocate for a VBP model which compensates both the sending and receiving provider.
  + UniteUs already has experience advocation for these VBP models.