

Delivery system transformation

VALUE-BASED PAYMENT PRACTICE TRANSFORMATION ACADEMY

SYNOPSIS

In 2017, the Value-based Payment Practice Transformation Academy offered technical assistance to community behavioral health providers throughout the state to increase their engagement in VBP arrangements.

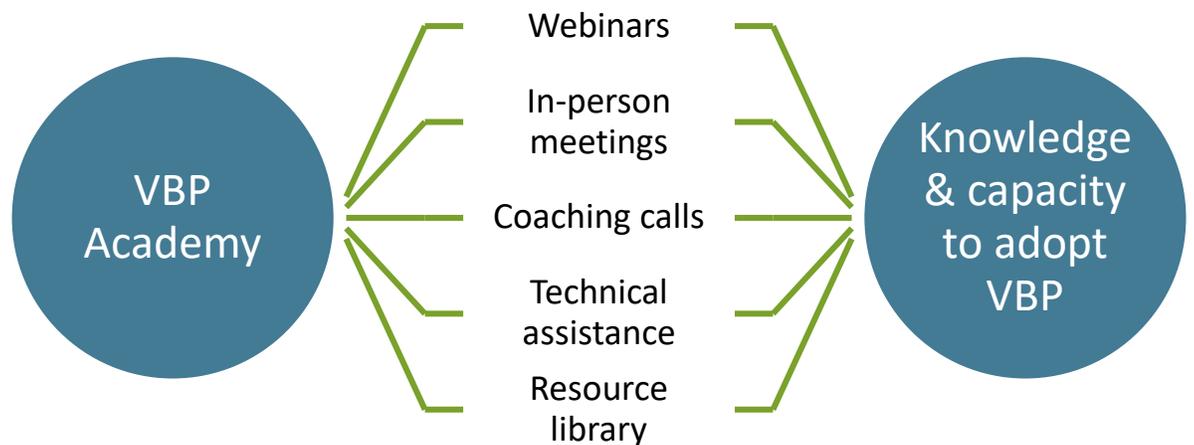
GOAL

To help participating organizations meet the Healthier Washington goal of having 90 percent of state payments tied to value by 2021.

OUTCOMES

- Academy participants report increased understanding of and comfort with entering into VBP arrangements.
- Behavioral health providers increased their participation in VBP arrangements.
- Participants were able to identify and better understand barriers to entering into VBP arrangements.

HOW IT WORKED



THE CHALLENGE

The State is transitioning to a new health care purchasing system for Apple Health (Medicaid) to shift 90 percent of state-financed health care to VBP by 2021. To achieve this, health care providers need to increase their adoption of VBP arrangements. However, providers may not have the tools, resources, or knowledge to participate in such arrangements. This is particularly true for community behavioral health providers, many of whom do not have experience working in a managed care environment or are not as advanced in health information technology as many physical health providers.

DESCRIPTION

In 2017, the Washington Council for Behavioral Health partnered with the Healthier Washington Practice Transformation Support Hub and the National Council for Behavioral Health to develop the VBP Academy, a 10-month learning academy for licensed community behavioral health agencies.

The Academy, which ran from October 2017 to July 2018, included 20 behavioral health agencies currently providing outpatient mental health and/or substance use disorder services in Washington State. The VBP Academy was designed to:

- Cultivate internal champions to plan for and enact steps to succeed in VBP arrangements
- Increase understanding of value-based principles and models in behavioral health consistent with the HCA's Value-based Road Map and Apple Health managed care contracts
- Provide comprehensive technical assistance to build organizational capacity to adopt VBP arrangements in Washington State.

HOW WE GET THERE

Through a combination of in-person meetings, practice coaching calls, and monthly technical assistance webinars, the VBP Academy fostered the fundamental principles organizations need to demonstrate readiness for VBP arrangements.

Phase 1 of the VBP Academy, which ran from October 2017 to January 2018, focused on building a foundation of VBP readiness. Participating organizations improved their VBP literacy as well as their understanding of organizational readiness assessments, population health management, and continuous quality improvement. In Phase 2, which ran from February 2018 to August 2018, each participating agency carried out a stretch project focused on quality improvement related to a health measure identified in the Medicaid Transformation Project Toolkit. Activities were structured in a manner that tied the selected "value measures" to specific Medicaid transformation projects. Practice Transformation Support Hub Coaches also provided assistance and feedback throughout the project.

RESULTS

Participants gained a better understanding of VBP models in behavioral health, quality improvement, data collection, and alignment of clinical delivery and payment systems. Because of their participation, organizations experience measurable outcomes, including:

- A comprehensive quality improvement and project management strategy
- Cultivating buy-in among internal stakeholders
- Developing a committee structure to operationalize transformation
- Creating a concrete work plan that prioritizes organizational transformation efforts