

**NH DSRIP 1115 Waiver Program- Region 7 IDN
Building Capacity for Transformation Project
Most Frequently Asked Questions**

Let's start with the project names....

What is an 1115 Waiver? “1115” refers to the section of the Social Security Act that authorizes experimental (demonstration), or pilot projects that support the goals of Medicaid. In other words, this waiver allows for money to be spent by states to be flexible in designing and improving their Medicaid healthcare programs to meet the specific needs of their own communities. Not one size fits all. What works for Nashua, NH would not work for Berlin, NH.

How did we get this waiver? The State of New Hampshire applied to the Federal government for it.

What does DSRIP stand for? **D**elivery **S**ystem **R**eform **I**ncentive **P**ayment. This is the name of the payment the state received to reform how Medicaid services are delivered in a state.

What does IDN stand for? **I**ntegrated **D**elivery **N**etwork. The state has been split up into 7 “IDN” regions. Each IDN is made up of mental health and substance use disorder treatment providers, primary care, hospitals, public health, corrections, county and social service organizations so that each group is “integrated” meaning representing a mixture of health care. These IDNs are also made up of a “network” of individuals and specialties. And, these groups will be responsible for “delivering” the changes to the healthcare system in their region

It is also called “Building Capacity for Transformation” what does that mean? New Hampshire must bring together partners, organizations, and Champions, (capacity) in order to *transform* the current way it provides mental health, substance use disorder and physical health services. The 1115 Waivers have been approved for many states around the country, but what makes NH's unique is that it is the first one to put the emphasis on mental health and substance use issues.

What does an IDN do? The members of the IDN first created a governance structure for how they would function together to meet the criteria for the Building Capacity for Transformation project. An Administrative lead was chosen, that is an organization that can lead and manage the project, work groups and a Steering committee were created. A large proposal describing the projects and priorities for our region had to be submitted and approved by the state. Working all together the partners will implement 3 Community Projects and 3 Statewide Projects that will transform the delivery of healthcare in our state and region.

Who is leading this in the North Country? The IDN's Administrative Lead is the North Country Health Consortium www.nchcnh.org

Who is participating in this? All the partners are listed at:
<http://nchcnh.org/region7IDN.php?xpage=29>

Why so many names for the same thing? The multiple names are confusing. It is a combination of what the Federal Government and the State of New Hampshire both require, and the multiple names tell a story of the funding process. The 1115 Waiver is what the state applied for so it could get the funding for the project, once approved the state received the Federal funding that has a specific name (DSRIP), the state was required to form IDNs or Integrated Delivery Networks to do the work, and Building Capacity for Transformation is the formal NH title for the entire state project.

What is the goal of the project? The “Building Capacity for Transformation” project is creating solutions that will improve how healthcare is delivered, with a focus on the Medicaid population. The project is centered on meeting the unique needs of each individual by breaking down barriers that prevent people from finding and connecting to the care they need. These changes will reduce costs and increase efficiency and provide integrated or combined treatment for those who have multiple healthcare needs that include mental health and/or substance use disorder in addition to physical health care.

Is it as complicated as it sounds? Yes, it involves all aspects of mental, substance use disorder and physical healthcare, and changing any large, diverse and complicated system is complicated, but the health care and social service partners in the North Country are committed to making this happen.

Are there parts of this project that are being done statewide? Yes, a focus on integration of behavioral health and primary care, addressing workforce capacity for all health care including mental health and substance use treatment providers, and the development of a Statewide Health Information Technology (HIT) infrastructure to support the integrated care throughout the state.

What is HIT?

The term "Health Information Technology" (Health IT) is a broad concept that encompasses an array of technologies to store, share, and analyze health information. More and more, health care providers are using Health IT or HIT to improve patient care and prevent people, especially those with complex health, mental health and substance use disorders, from falling through the cracks.

What is *Integrated* healthcare? “Integrated” is defined as combining or coordinating separate elements so as to provide a harmonious, interrelated whole; organized or structured so that units function cooperatively. In terms of Integrated health care, it is mental health, substance use disorder, and physical health care services coming together to treat a person as a whole, taking into consideration the relationships of each illness to each other. It produces the best outcomes and proves the most effective approach to caring for people with multiple healthcare needs.

What does Behavioral Health mean? “The term "behavioral health" includes the joint development of substance abuse and mental health treatment planning and coordinated case management using a multidisciplinary approach.”

What does this project mean for the North Country? The opportunity to prioritize the region and provide timely access to quality integrated healthcare for those that live here. It means healthier community members and cost savings.

What are the 3 projects in the North Country region?

Community Projects

- Care Transition – Support in the transition from institutional settings to the community.
- Expansion of intensive substance use disorder treatments - To address the identified need to expand access to a more comprehensive range of services and treatment options.
- Enhanced Care Coordination for those with multiple physical and behavioral health conditions - Improved access through collaboration of all treatment providers to improve health outcomes.

When do they start?

The plans for each project are to be complete by July 30, 2017. The State of NH will then need to approve them and with that approval release the funds to start. It is expected that will be in the Fall of 2017.

What is CTI? Critical Time Intervention helps vulnerable people during times of transition in their lives by strengthening their network of support in the community. For example this is helpful during transitions from inpatient hospital care to the community. For more information go to <https://www.criticaltime.org/>

What is IOP? Intensive Outpatient Treatment Services provide group based, non-residential, intensive, structured interventions consisting primarily of counseling and education about substance related and co-occurring mental health problems. Services are goal oriented interactions with the individual or in group/family setting. This service is based in the individual's community allowing him/her to apply skills in "real world" environments.

What is Supportive housing? A combination of housing and services intended as a cost-effective way to help people live more stable, productive lives. Supportive housing is widely believed to work well for those who face the most complex health and behavioral health challenges.

As the specific plans for this project are developed it will be important to hear from families and individuals who are on Medicaid and receiving health/behavioral health services. Please check back to learn how you can provide feedback and be a part of the community voice on this important healthcare project.

If you would like to speak with someone regarding this project, please contact April Allin at aallin@nchcnh.org