

Creating Volume to Sustain Community-Clinical Linkages and Impact Population Health

Project Summary: Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley's Healthy Living Center of Excellence (HLCE) will overcome existing cultural and process barriers to improve linkages between community based long-term support services and the current health care delivery system. Specifically, the HLCE will work to (1) improve the volume of referrals to evidence-based self-management programs made by dual eligible health plans, accountable care organizations, and patient centered medical homes and (2) increase the number of these payors invested in evidence-based programs. Among the evidence based programs forming this community-clinical linkage are Stanford University's suite of Chronic Disease Self-Management Programs (including Diabetes and Pain versions, in multiple languages), A Matter of Balance, Healthy IDEAS, Powerful Tools for Caregivers, the Diabetes Prevention Program, and others.

This improvement project will require and incorporate collaboration between HLCE as the existing statewide "hub" for community program dissemination, committed health care partners, local community based organizations, and older adult ambassadors. To enhance the value proposition of both the programs and the community organizations offering them, health outcomes post program implementation will be gathered and shared, thus procuring the much needed evidence to advance both contracting with payors and policy change. This project will create a model which may be replicated by health plans nationally. The impact on individuals and populations will be shared via webinar and technical assistance calls beyond Massachusetts through our existing partnerships with the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging's Business Institute and the Administration for Community Living's Business Acumen initiative. For additional information about HLCE's work, visit www.healthyliving4me.org.