



## Learning Community

**State Medicaid Programs Leveraging Alternative Payment Models to  
Improve Maternity Care: A Panel Discussion**

June 21, 2021

# Agenda

- a. Welcome, introductions and updates
- b. Panel Discussion
  - Facilitator: Tanya Alteras (The Health Care Transformation Task Force)
  - Panelists: Trevor Abeyta, Susanna Snyder, Ke Zhang (Colorado Department of Healthcare Policy and Financing); and Johnny Lai (TennCare)
- c. Q & A

# Welcome!

If you are new, please introduce yourself

- Name
- Personal/professional affiliation
- What brings you here



# Learning community agenda & objectives

Trimesters	Topic	Objective
Oct - Dec 2020	<b><i>Building a business case for investing in community-based, equity-centered care</i></b>	Develop components of a business case for payers and purchasers to invest in community-based, equity-centered care, including addressing benefit and network design, state and federal regulatory barriers, and how to measure quality and value.
Jan - March 2021	<b><i>High-value &amp; equitable maternity care in the time of COVID</i></b>	Share experiences with maternity care delivery during COVID and identify best practices, payment reform opportunities, and policy recommendations to address disparities in access to and experience with equitable virtual care.
April - June 2021	<b><i>Advancing alternative payment models for maternity care</i></b>	Develop strategies to advance the implementation of effective alternative payment models for maternity care delivery and develop recommendations for payers and policymakers to incorporate a focus on improved health equity and addressing social determinants of care into value-based payment for maternity care.

# Updates

## General Updates:

- The Institute of Medicaid Innovation is launching the Midwifery Learning Collaborative (MLC), a 3-year learning collaboration that provides support, resources, and guidance for state-based teams looking to develop sustainable initiatives to advance midwifery-led models of care for Medicaid populations. Up to five states will be selected to participate.
  - More info here: <https://www.medicaidinnovation.org/images/content/IMI-MLC-Overview-2021.pdf>
  - Applications due July 9<sup>th</sup>: <https://www.medicaidinnovation.org/images/content/IMI-MLC-Application-2021.pdf>

## Maternal Health Hub Updates:

- This is the final Learning Community meeting under the Maternal Health Hub
  - The Maternal Health Hub [website](#) will continue to run allowing stakeholders to talk, share resources, and meet others in the field. It will also be updated to include any new resources from the field.
  - Register as a member of the site here: <https://maternalhealthhub.org/learning-community/>
- To wrap up the Learning Community meetings, the Health Care Transformation Task Force is hosting a capstone webinar in July. Details coming soon!

# Today's speakers:

Johnny Lai



**Johnny Lai** is currently the Episodes Strategy Manager at **TennCare**. In this role, Johnny manages the day-to-day operations and long-term strategic planning of Tennessee's Episodes of Care program, which currently covers 48 different diagnoses and procedures. Prior to his role at TennCare, Johnny worked in finance at Nissan North America in Nashville, TN, and in defense contracting in Washington, DC. He holds an MBA from Vanderbilt University's Owen Graduate School of Management.

Trevor Abeyta



**Trevor Abeyta** is the Payment Reform Section Manager at the **Colorado Department of Healthcare Policy and Financing**. The Payment Reform Section is responsible for the strategy, development and implementation, and operations of value-based payment programs for the Colorado Medicaid program. Trevor's section focuses on alternative payment models to improve outcomes for Medicaid members and to control costs in primary care, maternity care, hospitals, and pharmacy. Trevor is an avid trail runner and is a dog parent to a 10-year-old rescue beagle named Maggie.

Susanna Snyder



**Susanna Snyder** currently serves as the Interim Program Design and Policy manager for **Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing**. In her role, she manages child and youth services outreach, maternal child health programming and substance use disorder policy development. Susanna received her M.A. in Medical Anthropology from the University of Colorado Denver and wrote her thesis on the provision of doulas to support women placing children for adoption. She continued her graduate work in the Reproductive Health Lab at Oregon State University. Susanna has worked as a research coordinator with the Midwives Alliance of North America, a consultant with the Oregon Health Authority and a doula for women seeking a mother-friendly birth experience.

Ke Zhang



**Ke Zhang** has been with the **Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing** for more than 2 years. Ke started as a rate setting specialist for Fee-for-Service benefits and was transformed to the payment reform team in 2021 to take on the implementation of Colorado Medicaid's first value-based episode care program, the Maternity Bundled Payment program. Prior to joining HCPF, Ke received his dual MAs in Public Health and Public Administration from the University of Colorado Denver. Ke was a business management consultant for three years and also worked in the non-profit sector with a focus on health education and international humanitarian relief.

# TennCare Episodes Definitions

## Trigger

- The codes and care settings based on the patient journey that define the start of an episode.

## Duration

- The length of time the episode covers.
- Can include a pre-trigger, trigger and post-trigger window.

## Quarterback

- Describes which provider is in the best position to influence the quality and cost of care in the episode.
- Provider or facility that receives quarterly reports.

## Included Services

- Medical services and medications selected to best reflect the totality of care the patient may receive during an episode.

## Exclusions & Risk-adjustment

- Variation outside the influence of the quarterback that should be considered for risk-adjustment and different patient pathways that should be excluded.

## Quality Metrics

- Measurements that are appropriate to inform the quarterback of the quality of care during an episode.
- Captures sources of value.

# TennCare Episodes Definitions: Perinatal

## Trigger

Live birth

## Duration

Begins 40 weeks prior to day of admission for delivery and ends 60 days after discharge

## Quarterback

Provider or provider group (by Tax ID) that performs the delivery

## Included Services

- **Prior to admission for delivery:** All care associated with a pregnancy
- **During delivery admission:** All care
- **After discharge:** Readmissions, ED, Care related to pregnancy, Medications

## Exclusions & Risk-adjustment

**Exclusions:** Cancer under active management, HIV, multiple sclerosis, bleeding clotting disorders such as hemophilia, three or more gestations

## Quality Metrics

- **Gain-sharing:** HIV screening, group B strep screening, C-section
- **Informational:** Gestational diabetes screening, asymptomatic bacteriuria screening, hepatitis C screening, Tdap vaccination



# Health First Colorado - Maternity Bundled Payment Program - Program Model

## Episode Definition

### Pre-trigger Window

**Prenatal Care** (280 days)

### Episode Trigger

**Delivery & Birth** (2-10 days)

### Post-trigger Window

**Postpartum Care** (60 days)

- 1300+ codes include Procedures (Professional & Facility), Testing, Diagnosis, DRG, and Pharmacy, etc.
- All services rendered within the episode are first reimbursed by the current FFS\* infrastructure.

## Quality Measures

Clinical Process Measures & Health Outcome Measures

- 2 sets of measures:
- Tied to payment
  - Reporting only

- 1<sup>st</sup> Year:  
- Reporting only as baseline
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year & onward:  
- Tie to payment

## Thresholds Setting

Based on a rolling 2-year historical claims data

- 2 thresholds to determine incentive (+/-)
- Acceptable Threshold
  - Commendable Threshold

Provider specific thresholds for self-competing

Separate track to address SUD\* & Mental Health

## Reconciliation & Payment

Annual retrospectively reconciliation

Cost outliers exclusion & Risk adjustment

50% Gain/Risk-Sharing

Health Equity as a gateway to shared savings

## Program Highlights

Non-delivery OB Provider Participation

Special Incentives Addressing SUD & Mental Health Issues

Provider Specific Thresholds (during voluntary participation years)

Real-time Data Sharing to Provide Actionable Information

Addressing Maternal Health Equity

## Program Status & Vision

2020 Nov.

Program Launched on Nov. 1, 2020

- Voluntary participation (3 provider groups joined)
- On-going program update & refinement

2021 Nov.

Program Expansion - Phase 1

- Voluntary participation (10-15)
- On-going program upgrade

2023 Nov.

Program Expansion - Phase 2

- Mandatory participation (all Medicaid OB providers)
- Program upgrade - Real-time data sharing + Neonatal Care

Not yet started In Progress Complete



**COLORADO**  
Department of Health Care  
Policy & Financing

\*SUD: Substance Use Disorder. FFS: Fee-for-Service

# Resources:

- Modern Healthcare: [UnitedHealthcare launches maternity-care bundle](#)
- NASHP: [Case Study: Tennessee's Perinatal Episode of Care Payment Strategy Promotes Improved Birth Outcomes](#)
- Health Care Payment Learning & Action Network: [Establishing Maternity Episode Payment Models: Experiences from Ohio and Tennessee](#)
- Institute for Medicaid Innovation: [Improving Maternal Health Access, Coverage, and Outcomes in Medicaid](#)

*Follow the Forum discussion and add additional resources*