Health Policy – Strategic Plan

Workgroup Co-Leads: Joel Cantor and Margaret Koller

Workgroup Focus

Health Policy - Rutgers Center for State Health Policy (CSHP) is an initiative within the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research (IFH), part of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences, with a mission to inform, support and stimulate sound and creative state health policy in New Jersey and around the nation. CSHP was conceived in response to the unique and essential role of the states in the formation and implementation of sound health policy in the American system of federalism. The passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010 has further elevated the importance of informed decision making by states. The workgroup focused on building on CSHP's established strengths to expand the Center's policy and population health impact.

Vision Statement

State and national health policy informed by stakeholder-engaged, rigorous, and impartial evidence will improve population health and well-being.

Research Priorities

The Center's signature areas of research include Access and Coverage, Health and Long-Term Care Workforce, Health System Performance Improvement, Long-Term Services and Supports, and Population Health. Within this core portfolio, CSHP marshals the expert resources of a team of multidisciplinary faculty and staff to:

- Conduct rigorous, timely, and impartial research on state health policy issues;
- Provide objective and practical evaluation of programs and policy choices;
- Convene the health policy community in a neutral forum to promote an active exchange of ideas on critical issues;
- Educate current and future health policy makers, researchers, and administrators; and
- Promote the practical application of scholarship in health policy.

Survey of Existing Partners

- NJ state agencies (e.g., Medicaid, DOH)
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Academy Health
- Other universities (e.g., University of Pittsburgh, Arizona State University)
- Rutgers schools/departments (e.g., Public Health, Family Medicine)

Opportunities for Future Collaborations

- NJ Population Cohort Study
- Develop collaborative relationships with RBHS (e.g., the Dept. of Pediatrics, Division of Population Health, Quality, and Implementation Sciences) and other Rutgers units (e.g., Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling) to leverage CSHP capacity and contributions
- Leverage AcademyHealth's State University Partnership Learning Network (SUPLN) to identify multi-state project development opportunities
- Expand our capacity to evaluate cross-sector initiatives (e.g., spanning health care, housing, social services) to improve population health
- Partner with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to advance a culture of health in New Jersey

Next Steps

- Continue and deepen CSHP's high-impact health policy analysis and research capacity in service of its New Jersey mission
  - Continue outreach and engagement with NJ health policy leadership and stakeholders
  - Develop and submit a request to renew CSHP's RWJF core infrastructure grant including expanding the Center's focus to including the promotion of a culture of health in NJ
  - Recruit one or more non-tenure track faculty members or staff scientists
  - In collaboration with others at IFH, launch the NJ Cohort study
  - Expand CSHP NJ-facing communications capacity, including promoting the IFH "brand" among NJ stakeholders
- Expand and diversify CSHP's funding portfolio and partnerships
  - Continue to submit competitive federal R01 or equivalent grant proposals
  - Collaborate with other state centers to develop multi-state proposals
- Advance CSHP's large-scale integrated data research capacity
  - Implement Integrated Population Health Data (iPHD) Project and optimize resources within the IFH Data Core
  - Expand CSHP data analytic staff

Metrics for Success

- Continued strong working relationship with NJ health policy stakeholders, including fielding stakeholder feedback survey
- Increase the share of Center funding from federal grants
- Expansion of CSHP faculty
- iPHD application process launch
- Successfully launch the NJ Cohort study in collaboration with others at IFH