

CommonSpirit Health – Pathways Community HUB Initiative

Overview

In March 2021, CommonSpirit Health launched a partnership with Pathways Community HUB Institute (PCHI) aimed at building a transformative and sustainable community-based care coordination network. PCHI is a national nonprofit that has developed an effective model to help communities work collaboratively to support underserved populations.

The PCHI Model brings together everyone involved in community health—hospitals, clinics, health plans, community-based care coordination agencies, Community Health Workers (CHWs), and others—to identify individuals with modifiable risk factors and connect them to services, track outcomes and contract with payers that directly tie payment back to those outcomes.

The Model is rooted in the belief that CHWs are uniquely positioned to engage residents at risk for poor health and social outcomes. PCHI provides standardized training and tools for CHWs to identify risk factors and work towards eliminating those risks one by one. Our partnership is aligned with CommonSpirit Health’s mission to improve the wellbeing of underserved communities and advance health equity.

How the PCHI Model works

A **Pathways Community HUB (PCH)** is an organized, outcome focused, pay for performance network of community-based care coordination agencies that hire and train CHWs to 1) reach out to those at greatest risk, 2) identify risk factors, and 3) assure connections to medical, social, and behavioral health services. To remove silos and eliminate duplication of services, there is only one PCH in a community or region.

PCHI Model Certification outlines [10 Prerequisites and 18 Standards](#) to guide communities as they build a Pathways Community HUB to fidelity. Everyone in the PCH network agrees to use the Model to collect data in a standardized way to track risk factors and report outcomes.

The PCH entity does not employ CHWs, but contracts with existing organizations – **Care Coordination Agencies (CCAs)** – that hire local CHWs and their supervisors (Figure 1). CHWs identify families in need to connect them to social, medical, and mental health services. Barriers to health, or risk factors, are translated into 21 standardized Pathways. Each Pathway represents the steps needed to remove the barrier or risk, which can include lack of housing or

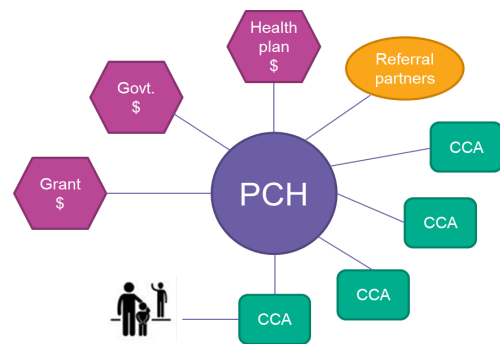


Figure 1. PCH Model

employment or inadequate access to certain medical and behavioral health services (Figure 2).

A Pathway is completed when the risk factor has been removed and a measurable, meaningful outcome is achieved. For example, to close a Housing Pathway, a CHW must work with a housing insecure individual to gain permanent and stable housing for 30 days. Once the outcomes are documented, the PCH bills the health plan for the care coordination services the CHW completes and for the individual's risks that were mitigated. 50 percent of payments to the PCH and CCAs are directly tied to closed Pathways.

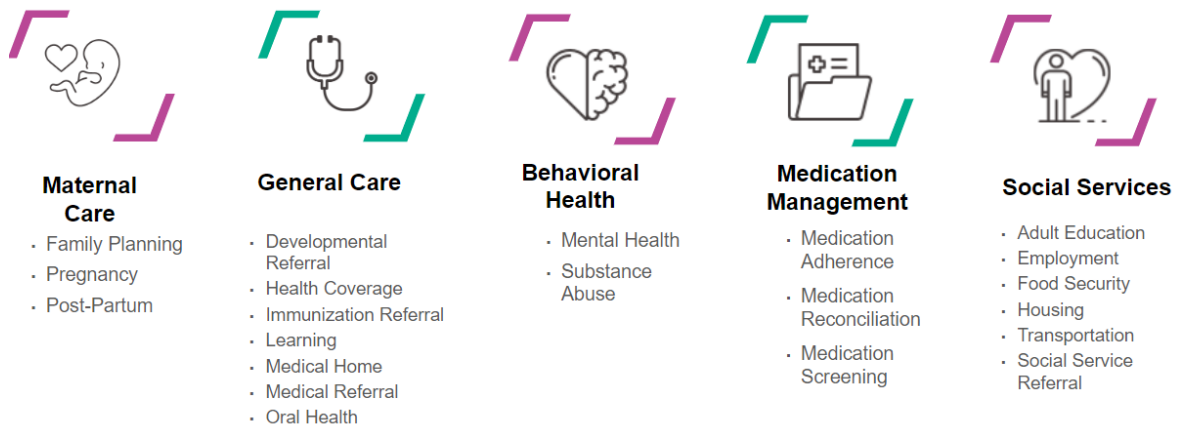


Figure 2. Standardized Pathways

Value across CommonSpirit Health

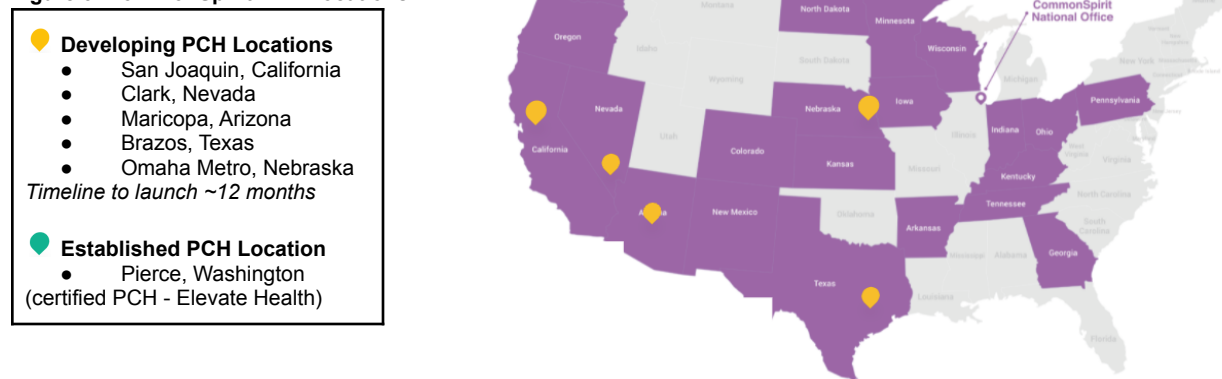
The PCHI model will allow CommonSpirit communities to assist members beyond their immediate medical needs by addressing the upstream factors and vulnerabilities that contribute to an individual's overall health. By contracting with local community based CCAs, the PCH will:

- Provide vulnerable community members with intensive case management to mitigate risks and improve medical, social, and behavioral health outcomes
- Address whole person care and advance health equity through community-centered solutions
- Remove siloes and eliminate duplication of services, reducing costs and demonstrating return on investment

Locations

CommonSpirit aims to scale the PCHI Model across communities we serve, beginning with sites in Arizona, California, Nebraska, Nevada, Texas, and Washington. While CommonSpirit is initiating and co-funding the effort, a neutral organization will lead each of the Pathways Community HUBs (PCHs) and convene other funders and community partners to build the infrastructure that will lead to long-term sustainability. Nationally, the PCHI Model is in 35 communities and counting. The PCHI-CommonSpirit partnership is the largest effort to scale the Model for community-based care coordination by a health system.

Figure 3. CommonSpirit PCHI locations



Future plans

Through collaboration with local community partners, the CommonSpirit Health Community Health team aims to:

- Partner with internal and external teams to scale the model across additional CommonSpirit communities as soon as funding allows
- Develop and implement an evaluation in collaboration with local teams and PCHI to demonstrate the impact and value of community health workers
- Catalyze and collaborate with Pathways Community HUB entities to begin serving community members and reporting metrics by early 2023

To learn more about the Pathways Community HUB Institute partnership with CommonSpirit Health, please see this [announcement](#).

To learn more about the Pathways Community HUB Institute, please visit their [website](#).

For more information about how to get involved, please contact [Megan Surace](#).