

1 Maine

Organization Type	Participating Organization Name
State Medicaid Agency	MaineCare

Health Equity Focus

The Maine team is exploring models that help incarcerated adults transition care as well as intensive case management upon release from jails or prisons.

Partnering with Patients/Members

The Maine team prioritized member engagement from the beginning of their initiative. They worked with organizations such as the [Maine Prisoner Re-entry Network](#) and the [Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition](#) and coordinated with the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services and Department of Corrections (DOC) to facilitate three rounds of focus groups with individuals at county jails and a behavioral health center. The focus groups informed both the team's health equity area of focus and their root cause analysis.

Care Delivery Transformation and Payment Reform

The Maine team is exploring how to minimize the disruptions in care that occur when adults are released from institutional settings—a particularly perilous time for individuals with substance use and mental health challenges and for whom continuity of care is critical. The team has investigated transitional care models that emphasize whole-person approaches and intensive case management. It is working with the Department of Human Services and HealthInfoNet, the statewide health information exchange in Maine, with a goal of sharing data with the Department of Corrections to support transitions in care. It is also exploring provider organization financial incentives to support care transition.

Creating Cultures of Equity

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is developing a DEI strategy for each department within DHS, including MaineCare. The DEI initiatives include strategies to improve the quality and availability of data to better analyze disparities; meaningful Medicaid member and community outreach and engagement; and the development of a community health worker model.

Lessons Learned

Getting feedback along the way from any stakeholder who interacts with the system you seek to change is critical. The Maine team asked for feedback on their program and strategy from DOC, leaders across their partnering organizations, and other groups that work with incarcerated adults to apply various perspectives and expertise to their plans.

Looking Ahead

The Maine team refined their goals and objectives while pausing much of their initiative's design and implementation for approximately 10-12 months while the state Medicaid agency

LEARNING COLLABORATIVE TEAM PROFILES: MAINE

determined budget and resource allocation. During that time, several key stakeholders retired or were no longer able to participate. Despite those challenges, the MaineCare team acquired funding and approval to pilot an intervention via the [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Section 9817](#) that will provide a financial incentive to healthcare providers who establish a connection with individuals discharged from prison or jail within two days of release. The team is currently identifying key stakeholders and hopes to begin the pilot in late 2023 or early 2024.