i2i Partners with Community Health Center Association on National Grant

On May 16th, the Delta Center for a Thriving Safety Net announced the recipients of its State Learning and Action Collaborative, a two-year national grant program, and i2i was informed that its joint submission with the North Carolina Community Health Center Association (NCCHCA) was approved. The grant will be used to expand value based care practices and payment strategies in healthcare—both behavioral health and primary health—through training and information to providers and payers across North Carolina.

i2i and NCCHCA chose to submit a grant in partnership to support a shared understanding of and movement towards value-based payment and care across primary and behavioral healthcare in North Carolina. The Delta Center's goal is to enhance and sustain states' capacities to support the shift to value-based care and payment. The grant intends to achieve this by cultivating the practices of selected state learning organizations through 3 major activities: state learning & action collaboratives, engaging with local stakeholders, and advancing policy. The North Carolina team will participate in a series of national convenings (both live and virtual) and technical assistance opportunities focused on value-based care, which they will utilize as they provide support and training to stakeholders in North Carolina in their transitions to value-based care. The team will also look for opportunities to work with state leaders to address critical policy issues in support of value-based systems.

Peter F. Freeman, MPH, Vice President & Executive Director of Carolina Medical Home Network for the NC Community Health Center Association said, "NCCHA is excited at the opportunity to participate in the Delta Center for a Thriving Safety Net with its partner applicant the i2i Center for Integrative Health. NCCHCA sees the ability to work closely with i2i through the Delta Center as an imperative step in working towards closing the many divides that currently exist in North Carolina's Medicaid program. The state's community health centers have much to learn from their behavioral health counterparts who have previously existed in a value-based system for Medicaid services, and look forward to the shared learning space the Delta Center will provide for both NCCHCA and i2i to navigate the changing Medicaid program together.

Mary Hooper, i2i's Executive Director is also very excited about this opportunity saying, "For i2i, the Delta grant is important on 3 levels. First, it will advance value-based payment knowledge and practice across a broad range of healthcare organizations in our state. Secondly, by selecting i2i, our organization is recognized as competent to compete at the national level. And for an organization at our stage of evolution, this is an incredibly positive fact! Finally, and equally important in my opinion, this grant creates the opportunity for i2i to work closely with folks in the primary healthcare arena in North Carolina, and I couldn't be more pleased about partnering with Ben Money and his staff at the NC Community Health Center Association (NCCHCA)."

In addition to North Carolina, 10 other states received this grant and will participate: Arizona, Oregon, Colorado, Michigan, Maine, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Texas, and Washington.

The Delta Center for a Thriving Safety Net (Delta Center) is a new national center sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) that aims to inspire innovation and change in value-based care and payment through policy and practice initiatives. It identifies itself as the first national center to focus exclusively on transforming payment and care for ambulatory primary care and behavioral health services. The Delta Center is being led by JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc. (JSI) in collaboration with the Center for Care Innovations (CCI) and the MacColl Center for Health Care Innovation at Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute (MacColl).