



The purpose of the New York State Department of Health's Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program is to restructure the healthcare delivery system by reinvesting in the Medicaid program, with the primary goal of reducing avoidable hospital use by 25% over 5 years. In partnership with hospitals, public health agencies, physicians and community-based organizations, the North Country Initiative is advancing state-wide projects to transform the healthcare system, coordinate care, and improve the health and wellness for our population.

4.a.iii

Strengthen Mental Health and Substance Abuse Infrastructure across Systems (Focus Area 3)

Project Objective:

This project will help to strengthen mental health and substance abuse infrastructure across systems.

Project Description:

Support collaboration among leaders, professionals, and community members working in Mental, Emotional and Behavioral (MEB) health promotion to address substance abuse and other MEB disorders. MEB health promotion and disorders prevention is a relatively new field, requiring a paradigm shift in approach and perspective. This project will address chronic disease prevention, treatment and recovery, and strengthen infrastructure for MEB health promotion and MEB disorder prevention. Meaningful data and information at the local level, training on quality improvement, evaluation and evidence-based approaches, and cross-disciplinary collaborations need to be strengthened.

Patient Population:

Medicaid patients receiving treatment for Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Identified Community Need:

The need to strengthen mental health and substance abuse cross systems infrastructure was identified as a population health priority across multiple focus groups. Our region's rates of hospitalizations and emergency department use for mental illness and substance abuse are very high and of deep concern. In addition the binge drinking rate for the region is nearly 25% (NYS average 17%) and the suicide rate is nearly twice the state average. There is clear evidence that there needs to be a cohesive and concerted population health strategy to engage and address mental illness and substance abuse prevention across the continuum.



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Project Milestones	
1	Participate in Mental, Emotional and Behavioral (MEB) health promotion and MEB disorder prevention partnerships.
2	Collaborate Care in Primary Care Settings
3	Cultural and linguistic training on MEB health promotion, prevention and treatment.
4	Share data and information on MEB health promotion and MEB disorder prevention and treatment.