In February 2013 the State of Maine received one of six State Innovation Model (SIM) awards from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI). The award, totaling $33 million over three years, has four primary objectives aimed at achieving the Triple Aim by 2017:

* Reduce the total cost of care per person per year in Maine to the national average;
* Improve the health of Maine’s population in at least four categories of disease prevalence (including diabetes, mental health, obesity, and tobacco use);
* Improve patient experience scores for targeted practices by 2% from the baseline 2012 survey;
* Increase the number of practices reporting patient experience information from 50% to 66%

To accomplish these goals the State of Maine has enlisted the help of the Maine Health Management Coalition, Maine Quality Counts, and HealthInfoNet. Each organization will assist the State in carrying out specific aspects of the award like quality improvement at the practice level, public reporting, and the creation of a patient portal.

One of those supporting initiatives is Pathways to Excellence-Behavioral Health (PTE-BH).

Pathways to Excellence (PTE) is the public reporting initiative signature program of the Maine Health Management Coalition. The Coalition measures and reports quality data on primary care medical practices and hospital system and assigns them a good, better or best ranking to help consumers decide where to seek health care services. These rankings are published to the Get Better Maine website (www.getbettermaine.org). Some large purchasers in Maine use this information to tier providers in innovative benefit plan designs, providing incentives for enrollees to seek care from highly ranked providers. PTE- BH will utilize the already established Pathways to Excellence structure, but will focus on behavioral health quality metrics.

How does PTE-BH fit into the work of SIM? A significant part of SIM is working to identify common metrics across payers for public reporting and alignment with payment through the work of the PTE Steering Committee. The PTE – BH Steering Committee will identify national metrics in which to measure behavioral health, along with other data measures, and disseminate those rankings publically.

Our first meeting was on Monday, March 31 from 2-4 at Governor Hill Mansion, 136 State Street in Augusta, www.governorhillmansion.com.

If you are interesting in participating in this exciting work, please e-mail Patti Ross at PRoss@mehmc.org