

Call for Applications:
2022 Integrated Behavioral Health (IBH) Learning Collaborative
Focus on NCQA Behavioral Health Distinction in Primary Care

Care Transformation Collaborative of Rhode Island (CTC-RI)/ Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Kids launched an IBH learning collaborative in 2021 to support practices in preparing to apply or renew NCQA BH Distinction. With additional 2022 funding from UnitedHealthcare, we are pleased to offer 5-8 additional primary care practices (child, family, and/ or adult) that provide behavioral health services within primary care the opportunity to apply for funding. This learning collaborative will assist practices with achieving NCQA Behavioral Health Distinction. Outlined below are the details around the funding opportunity.

Vision of CTC-RI and PCMH-Kids

Rhode Islanders enjoy excellent health and quality of life, and children and youth will grow up healthy to reach their optimal potential. All children and youth in RI will be cared for in high quality, family and patient centered, medical homes.

Mission of CTC-RI and PCMH-Kids

To lead the transformation of primary care in Rhode Island in the context of an integrated health care system.

To engage providers, payers, patients, care-givers, purchasers, and policy makers in the development of high quality, family and patient-centered medical homes for adults, children and youth, and provide health care in an affordable, integrated healthcare system that promotes active participation, wellness, and delivers high quality comprehensive health care dedicated to data-driven system improvement. PCMH's for children will be cost effective and sustainably resourced.

CTC STRATEGIC AND PROGRAM GOAL

To continue to lead the transformation of primary care in Rhode Island in the context of an integrated health care system by shifting CTC program focus to include shared innovation and incubation and public education efforts that advance the quadruple aim.

The goal of this program is to provide primary care practices and those they serve with primary and secondary prevention models and access to high-quality, affordable, on-site (or virtual) licensed behavioral health clinicians which will include the development, implementation and evaluation of best practices for integrated behavioral health models and practice assistance in preparing to apply for NCQA Behavioral Health Distinction.

BACKGROUND

In 2020, OHIC has revised and updated the Affordability Standards around IBH. In 2021, OHIC implemented new pathways for IBH within the state of Rhode Island. These important pathways will support the use of best practices and gold standards in the delivery of IBH services. In order for a practice to earn the designation of a Qualifying Integrated Behavioral Health Primary Care Practice, it must achieve NCQA BH Distinction within 3 years.

The CTC -Integrated Behavioral Health Learning Collaborative is designed to assist practices transition to providing integrated behavioral health either on-site (or virtually) and demonstrate [NCQA Behavioral Health distinction competencies](#). It is expected that participating practices that implement an evidenced based and systematic approach to virtual IBH will improve access to care, patient experience, team experience, clinical outcomes and position the practice for success in the value based comprehensive primary care payment model. This IBH Readiness Learning Collaborative includes real-time consultation around behavioral health issues that arise in patients who are served by primary care.

CTC seeks to establish a 12-month funding opportunity that provides IBH practice facilitation to 5-8 primary care practices (pediatric, family or adult medicine). The learning collaborative will run from May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- Engage practice sites in monthly individualized virtual practice facilitation focused on [NCQA BH Distinction readiness](#).
- Participate in learning collaborative meetings to share successes and barriers and bring in content expert(s) to support collaborative learning around NCQA BH Distinction.
- Prepare to apply for behavioral health distinction through NCQA by end of 12-month engagement with CTC.

BENEFITS TO SELECTED PRACTICES:

Selected practices would have access to and participate in customized IBH practice facilitation services (provided virtually) and webinar training (as needed) to assist them in successfully achieving/maintaining NCQA Behavioral Health Distinction.

- Benefits of Behavioral Distinction, per NCQA
 - **Stand out.** Demonstrate to patients, payers and partners that your practice has the right resources, evidence-based protocols, standardized tools and quality measures in the primary care setting to support the needs of patients.
 - **Improve outcomes.** Distinction results in an enhanced level of care and improved access, clinical outcomes and patient experience.
 - **Deliver whole-person care.** Distinction helps practices provide comprehensive care that acknowledges patients' behavioral health needs beyond the core requirements of NCQA PCMH Recognition
 - Per OHIC Affordability Standards, practices that achieve NCQA BH distinction can waive co-pay for same day BH visits.
- The Distinction in Behavioral Health Integration module includes **18 criteria across 4 competencies** related to behavioral health integration:
 - **Behavioral Health Workforce** - The practice incorporates behavioral health providers at the site, utilizes behavioral health providers outside the practice and trains the care team to address patients' mental health and substance use concerns.
 - **Information Sharing** - The practice shares patient information within and outside of the practice to support an integrated/coordinated patient treatment plan.
 - **Evidence-Based Care** - The practice uses evidence-based protocols to identify and address patients' behavioral health needs.
 - **Measuring and Monitoring** - The practice utilizes quality measures to monitor the care of patients with behavioral health needs.

FUNDING AND PAYMENT TIMELINE:

Selected practices will be eligible to receive up to \$10,000 infrastructure/incentive financial payments during the funding period as outlined below:

- \$5,000 with execution of the Participative Agreement, team completion of the NCQA BH Distinction Self-Assessment, team participation in the Orientation meeting and team participation in the first practice facilitation meeting;
- \$2,500 at the completion of the learning collaborative and attendance at all practice facilitator and learning collaborative meetings.
- \$2,500 for applying for NCQA Behavioral Health Distinction. If a practice is not ready to apply for NCQA Behavioral Health Distinction, a work plan and timeline outlining the steps the practice needs to take to prepare for NCQA Behavioral Health Distinction can suffice.

PREREQUISITES:

1. Current NCQA Patient Centered Medical Home recognition;
2. Primary care practices must, at minimum, have an Integrated Behavioral Health clinician, defined as either a psychologist, social worker, mental health counselor and/or a psychiatrist, embedded within the primary care practice, as either part or full-time, prior to the beginning of the cohort chosen. Practices who have identified and reached an agreement with a clinician who has not yet started may apply if the clinician is confirmed to start within three months of May 1, 2022.

PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS:

- Pre-schedule and attend* monthly virtual or in person IBH practice facilitation with membership to include practice leadership, physician/clinical champion, nurse care manager and/other practice staff that would be relevant for this initiative (within 30 days of award notification);
- Commit to and participate in virtual / in person learning collaborative meetings;
- Apply for NCQA Behavioral Health Distinction within the 12 month CTC engagement period; If a practice is not ready to apply for NCQA Behavioral Health Distinction, a work plan outlining the steps with timeline the practice needs to take to prepare for NCQA Behavioral Health Distinction can suffice.
- Complete NCQA BH Distinction Self-Assessment at baseline and then at completion of the one-year initiative. (See Appendix B).

** with change in circumstances, practices would be expected to re-schedule monthly meetings in order to maintain focus on meeting program objectives within the same month.*

Timeline for Selection Process:

Step	Activity	Date
1.	Call for Applications released	3/16/22
2.	Conference call with interested parties to answer any questions. If unable to attend, please submit questions to CTCIBH@ctc-ri.org Join Zoom Meeting https://ctc-ri.zoom.us/j/97755638665?pwd=NE9RVVVyQjFvMGVtVUI3WEN0SHFOQT09 Meeting ID: 977 5563 8665 Passcode: 646876	3/23/22 8:30am-9:00am
3.	Practices submit completed application package. Please see next page for full details: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cover letter indicating the practice's commitment2. If applicable, a system of care (i.e. accountable care organization or accountable entity) Letter of Support Application Form, filled out completely and submitted via survey monkey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BVN5P75	4/15/22 by 11:59pm
4	A Selection Committee will review applications and select practices	4/15/22 to 4/21/22
5	Notification will be sent to practices that have been chosen	4/29/22
6	Orientation for all selected practices	5/19/22; 8am-9am

For questions contact:

Sarah Summers, Project Coordinator
ssummers@ctc-ri.org

Application Package Submission Checklist
NCQA Behavioral Health Distinction application:
Submit application by 4/15/22

Final Package for Submission
Cover letter indicating the practice's commitment and acceptance of the conditions stated in the application, signed by all members of the IBH implementation team in the practice. If practice is unable to obtain signatures, practice can write-in name/signature with the understanding that the practice is responsible for conferring with the individual and assuring the person's intention to participate. (See Appendix C for Word version) <i>Email to CTCIBH@ctc-ri.org</i>
If applicable, a system of care (i.e. accountable care organization or accountable entity) Letter of Support indicating the level of support provided for this initiative. (See Appendix D for Word version) <i>Email to CTCIBH@ctc-ri.org</i>
Application Form, filled out completely and submitted via survey monkey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BVN5P75

Completed application packages should be received by 4.15.22 at 11:59pm
Email practice commitment and SOC letter of support to: CTCIBH@ctc-ri.org

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