**Notice of Opportunity to Participate in**

**Stakeholder Work Groups related to MassHealth’s Section 1115 Demonstration Renewal**

**Issued on August 31, 2020**

To inform the development of MassHealth’s approach to refining and enhancing its delivery system restructuring during the period of the upcoming renewal of its Section 1115 demonstration (also known as the MassHealth 1115 waiver), the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) invites interested individuals to participate in stakeholder work groups that EOHHS anticipates meeting during the fall and winter of 2020-2021.

*Background*

Beginning in the fall of 2020, MassHealth will conduct stakeholder engagement to discuss improvements to the MassHealth program that are aimed at building upon the successes of the current 1115 demonstration. This effort will be a second phase of the delivery system restructuring efforts that led to the creation of accountable care organizations (ACOs) in 2018. The next waiver will build on the ACO restructuring, including bringing additional focus and prioritization to primary care, behavioral health care, and health-related social needs; further moving the health care system away from fee-for-service reimbursement constructs; and ensuring sustainable support for the Commonwealth’s safety net programs and providers. EOHHS anticipates such stakeholder engagement will include:

* Releasing documents outlining MassHealth’s overall initial policy direction and specific areas of focus;
* Conducting public meetings to solicit broad public input;
* Issuing a Request for Information (RFI) open to all interested stakeholders;
* Creating three stakeholder work groups and soliciting from those work groups focused input on specific topical areas, as detailed below; and
* Releasing a draft 1115 demonstration renewal request for public comment prior to EOHHS submitting such renewal request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

*Stakeholder Work Groups*

EOHHS intends to create the following work groups:

| **Work Group** | **Scope of Work** |
| --- | --- |
| Strategic Design | Discussing the overall approach to the delivery system and payment model for MassHealth members, with specific consideration for accountable and integrated care and payment models across the care continuum, including further moving the health care system out of fee-for-service reimbursement constructs. The workgroup may also consider topics such as increasing focus on children, youth and families in the ACO program, addressing health equity, and supporting sustainable financing for safety net providers. Each meeting will be focused one or more key strategic questions. |
| Care Coordination | Discussing baseline expectations for providers, populations requiring extra support, as well as accountability, financing and future modifications to current care coordination programs. This workgroup’s focus will include but not be limited to the evolution of the Community Partners program for individuals with significant behavioral health and/or long-term services and supports needs. In addition, the workgroup may consider the role of MassHealth and its ACO program in coordinating support for health-related social needs. |
| Primary Care Technical Advisory Group | Discussing care delivery and financing approaches for a capitation model for primary care designed to support innovation and practice transformation, including further integration of behavioral health care in the primary care setting. |

These work groups will give input to inform EOHHS policy decisions. These work groups will not be responsible for making policy decisions; any such decisions will be made by EOHHS.

Members of the work groups are expected to be able to devote the time needed to perform the roles and responsibilities of the work groups, including attending and participating in all meetings virtually; reviewing meeting materials in advance as needed; contributing to the drafting and development of any work group findings and recommendations; and providing advice and guidance to EOHHS.

Each work group will have approximately 25-35 members. Interested individuals may apply and may be selected to serve on more than one work group. EOHHS anticipates work groups will meet one or two times per month from November 2020 through February 2021. EOHHS anticipates most work group meetings being approximately two hours long and held virtually with options for video or phone participation.

*Application and Selection Process for Work Group Members*

MassHealth will review each applicant’s nomination form in accordance with the following criteria: comprehensiveness, appropriateness, feasibility, clarity, effectiveness, innovation, demonstrated ability to work with MassHealth, and responsiveness to the needs of EOHHS and MassHealth members. EOHHS will consider broad representation in the work group as described below, technical or subject matter expertise, expressed interest in the applicable work group topic, and the likelihood of the applicant being impacted by a policy regarding a particular topic. EOHHS is seeking members for the work groups that represent the diversity of stakeholders and interests in the MassHealth program. Applicants with experience with or knowledge of the following areas are encouraged to apply: providers, payers, community-based organizations, payment model design, data analysis, actuarial rate setting, health policy, health equity, and quality measures. MassHealth members (including members with disabilities and behavioral health needs), their family members or guardians, or representatives of consumer advocacy organizations are also encouraged to apply. EOHHS may also consider any information known by EOHHS about an applicant, including previous history engaging with MassHealth in a stakeholder process or otherwise providing feedback to MassHealth. In order to achieve appropriate representation in each work group, EOHHS may, in its sole judgment, invite nominees to participate in work groups other than the one(s) for which they are nominated.

Interested individuals should submit a completed nomination form to Melissa Morrison at [Melissa.Morrison@mass.gov](mailto:Melissa.Morrison@mass.gov) by **Tuesday, September 22nd at 5:00 PM.** The nomination form is available on COMMBUYS ([www.commbuys.com/](http://www.commbuys.com/)) as a separate attachment. Interested individuals may apply to and be considered for more than one work group.

Contact Melissa Morrison at [Melissa.Morrison@mass.gov](mailto:Melissa.Morrison@mass.gov) if you would like to request a reasonable accommodation, which may include having the application form sent to you or obtaining information in an alternative format.