Evolving Models of Behavioral Health Integration in Primary Care

Chris Collins, Denise Levis Hewson, Richard Munger, and Torlen Wade The Milbank Memorial Fund - May 2010

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".....This report offers an approach to meeting the unmet needs of the millions of Americans suffering from mental illness and substance abuse: the integration of primary care and behavioral health care.

The report summarizes the available evidence and states' experiences around integration as a means for delivering quality, effective physical and mental health care. For those interested in integrating care, it provides eight models that represent qualitatively different ways of integrating/coordinating care across a continuum—from minimal collaboration to partial integration to full integration—according to stakeholder needs, resources, and practice patterns

This report also provides an orientation to the field and, hopefully, a compelling case for integrated or collaborative care. It provides a concise summary of the various models and concepts and describes, in further detail, eight models that represent qualitatively different ways of integrating and coordinating care across a continuum—from minimal collaboration to partial integration to full integration. Each model is defined and includes examples and successes, any evidence-based research, and potential implementation and financial considerations.

Also provided is guidance in choosing a model as well as specific information on how a state or jurisdiction could approach integrated care through steps or tiers. Issues such as model complexity and cost are provided to assist planners in assessing integration opportunities based on available resources and funding. The report culminates with specific recommendations on how to support the successful development of integrated care."

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* This message from the Pan American Health Organization, PAHO/WHO, is part of an effort to disseminate information Related to: Equity; Health inequality; Socioeconomic inequality in health; Socioeconomic health differentials; Gender; Violence; Poverty; Health Economics; Health Legislation; Ethnicity; Ethics; Information Technology - Virtual libraries; Research & Science issues. [DD/ KMC Area]

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