

Proposed SIM Decision-Making Process and Timeline: December 7, 2015

As we begin to move forward implementing the SIM grant, discussions with SIM Steering Committee members and the Interagency Staff Team have revealed a number of strategic decisions that need to be made to clarify our work. This draft document lays out the decision points that have arisen in these conversations and proposes a timeline and process for making the Steering Committee to make the decisions.

The first set of discussions will take place during the next SIM Steering Committee meeting on December 10th.

SIM Decision-makers:

SIM Steering Committee, assisted by
SIM staff and Steering Committee Chair, assisted by
Subject Matter Experts from agencies and from our soon-to-be contracted vendor

SIM Decision-making Areas:

Vision Affirmation: Affirming the Triple Aim as the SIM Vision

Theory of Change/Grant Focus Affirmation: Affirming that this is a payment reform grant and that the focus is on testing how Rhode Island can change its payment system in a way that results in improvements for population and behavioral health.

Assumptions As a part of the Theory of Change process, the SIM Steering Committee will brainstorm assumptions used in making decisions.

Investment Decisions:

The SIM grant proposes making investments in activities that either:

- support the infrastructure of new payment systems,
- move new payment systems forward, or
- use new payment systems to improve population and behavioral health.

Background:

- This year, the Steering Committee made IT capacity investment decisions to help support payment reform data and analytics.
- What other investments will we make to test this payment reform hypothesis?
 - There are a number of other system transformation projects that the state had considered and wrote into the grant application.
 - Members of the Steering Committee have already stated in a recent meeting that the number of potential project areas is very broad, and that it is likely that the amount of money we could spend in any one area would not have enough impact to test the hypothesis.
 - In individual discussions between Steering Committee members and the SIM Project Director, many members have been clear in their support of spending money in a narrow and deep manner (investing much more money on many fewer programs).
 - Steering Committee members have suggested focusing on between 1 and 3 programs.

Formal Decisions Needed:

Should SIM switch from our current funding plan (funding all or most of the activities proposed in the grant) to instead fund fewer projects with more money going to each project?

- If the Steering Committee decides to fund fewer projects, we should develop a clear process to determine how many and which projects will be funded.
- Several Steering Committee members have talked about various criteria we can use to make this decision as a group. We will brainstorm criteria at the Steering Committee meeting.
- The criteria can include funding projects that meet a set of very specific goals whose implementation will improve our population and behavioral health. The Steering Committee will develop these goals, with the help of state staff and our vendor.
- Once we have set these goals, we will determine the specific metrics by which we can measure if we have met our goals.
- Some draft examples of potential goals are included below (but are not from the grant itself):

Improving patient satisfaction and access by changing how our healthcare system is organized, measured by a set of metrics which could include the # of PCMHs, the number of providers linked to interoperable EMRs and the penetration of ACOs

Improving the health of populations on these X# of metrics (physical and behavioral health together)

Reducing the per capita cost trend of health care by \$X

Draft Timeline for Steering Committee Decisions

Decision	Other Activities	Decision Timeline	Decision Support
Vision – affirm the Triple Aim as the SIM Vision		December Steering Committee meeting	Project Director
Affirming SIM as a payment reform grant – that payment reform is the hypothesis that we are testing		December Steering Committee meeting	Project Director
Decide whether to switch from the current plan to fund all of the activities in the grant to a smaller set of activities.		December Steering Committee meeting	Project Director
If the SC decides to switch to a small set of activities, determine the criteria by which it will make these new decisions.		Brainstormed at the December Steering Committee meeting and decided at the January meeting	Project Director and state staff
Brainstorm a set of goals that the SC wants the project to achieve – that we can use to measure our progress toward our vision.		December Steering Committee meeting	Project Director

	Carry out any necessary research to clarify the proposed activities toward the criteria	Between December and January meetings	Vendor, when hired, and state staff
	Carry out any necessary research to clarify the brainstormed goals and propose new ones	Between December and January meetings	Vendor, when hired, and state staff
Begin to apply the criteria to the set of activities in the grant – and if desired by the SC, propose additional activities		January Steering Committee meeting	Project Director
	Carry out additional research on new proposed activities, or how any of the activities meet the criteria; begin to lay out how the activities will move us toward meeting our Population and Behavioral Health goals	Between January and February meetings	Vendor
	Carry out additional research on the proposed goals	Between January and February meetings	Vendor
Steering Committee to discuss the information we have – the criteria, the research, and the beginning work on the Population and Behavioral Health plans – to determine when it can make final decisions on SIM project goals and which transformation projects to fund. If the Steering Committee believes it does not have enough information to make the decision in February, it will determine when it can decide and what additional information it needs.		February Steering Committee meeting	Project Director, Vendor, and state staff