

# Mental Health and Addiction Work Group

## Charter

### **Purpose and Scope:**

The Mental Health and Addiction Work Group will evaluate the inventory of mental health and addiction services for adults and children in the area. An important objective is to provide data and analysis that will assist the new proposed regional health system (“Newco”) in developing an optimal structure to combat addiction and substance abuse, reduce the number of newborns born into addiction, and to reduce dependency on drugs and alcohol through improved access and support. The findings of the work group will be a source of input into the development of Newco’s ten (10) year comprehensive community health improvement plan.

### **Deliverables:**

The work group will produce a document for consideration by Newco that shall consider, but is not limited to, the following:

- Produce an inventory of regional outpatient, community and inpatient services available for adults and children;
- Receive input from physicians, mental health experts, addiction recovery experts and patients with respect to their experiences in the system, and suggestions for improved coordination and gaps in availability of services;
- Assess the national recommendations for best practices in community-based and residential mental health and addiction disorders, and discover opportunities for evolving the regional mental health delivery system toward the national best practices;
- Assess existing gaps in appropriate access points (especially in disadvantaged populations), quality, funding, and use of best practices;
- Identify opportunities to expand education and training for practitioners in mental health and addiction through existing partnerships with East Tennessee State University and potential new partnerships with other organizations;
- Review research-based protective factors and recommend solutions to minimize the initiation of drugs and alcohol in young people and promote mental health and well-being;
- Explore opportunities to better integrate primary care, mental health and addiction services, and to better coordinate care of individuals living with mental disorders and/or addiction across frequently used systems such as judicial, housing, medical and other welfare and family support services; and

- Identify opportunities for enhanced partnerships between Newco and East Tennessee State University, as well as potential new partnerships with other academic institutions, community-based providers and other organizations.

The work group's report will focus on achieving sustainable and measurable improvements in population health in the context of an accountable care community.

**Schedule:**

The work group will meet periodically at the call of the chair and as scheduled. The schedule shall include meetings which may be open to the public and announced in order to ensure public input in the process. The work group may invite presentations from organizations and individuals with expertise, and may also permit public comment. The work group may identify sub-committees which may meet more frequently to produce material for public review.

**Reporting:**

The Mental Health Work Group will provide its findings to the Integration Council.