

Questions from Comprehensive Planning Committee – November 2023

1. Breakdown of spending for activities within Substance Use Services (Outpatient), specifically looking at drug testing. The CPC wants to know how money is allocated within this service and however much information you can provide without identifying the organizations.

Ryan White funds do not pay for drug testing in this jurisdiction. All Ryan White Part A Substance Use Services funding in the Philadelphia EMA is used to onboard/retain licensed and certified counselors to provide individual and group counseling to eligible Ryan White consumers.

2. How transportation is being utilized -- is there any way to receive a breakdown of SEPTA/public transportation versus ride shares versus personal provider vehicles?

The recipient currently funds 5 Subrecipients to provide Medical Transportation Services for Ryan White eligible services, chiefly medical care, oral health, and medical case management. There are several modes of transportation utilized: agency vehicles, one-way SEPTA key cards, shared rides (Uber/LYFT), taxi services and mileage reimbursement.

A further breakdown of how funds are utilized demonstrates approximately 49% of funding is utilized to pay for SEPTA key cards, shared rides, taxis, mileage reimbursement and monthly county transportation service fees. The balance of funds is utilized for the administration of the centrally located transportation program coordination and supervisory staff, agency drivers and operational expenses (communications, rent, insurance, etc.).

3. They would like to know more details about mental health service utilization within Philadelphia since there was recently increased spending and clients. The following information might be helpful: (1) personal insurance versus Ryan White insurance coverage, (2) number of visits per client (average number of visits per client), and (3) telehealth vs. in-person visits. Additionally, does the recipient have any recommendations or other information that may be beneficial due to this increased utilization.

Philadelphia county currently has 6 Subrecipients who receive Ryan White Part A funding for Mental Health Services. This includes 2 hospital sites, 3 federally qualified health centers, and 1 co-located wellness center. There is also a combination of traditional mental health services which includes

one to one counseling sessions and Behavioral Health Counseling (BHC). BHCs provide brief, short-term behavioral health counseling services to Ryan White eligible persons with HIV in the Philadelphia EMA. BHC services are typically provided by a psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, or other behavioral health professional — as part of the health care team. BHC services positively contribute to improved health outcomes such as durable viral suppression and retention in care.

INSURANCE: Coverage for all persons living with HIV who receive mental health services is varied. Most Ryan White eligible clients are eligible for and utilize Medicaid. However, some clients also have personal/private (HMO) insurance and may also utilize SPBP. After reviewing data for FY22, the breakdown is as follows: 51.3% of all Ryan White clients have Medicaid, 22.3% have Medicare (4.2% unspecified, 18.1% Medicare Part A and B), 9.6% have no insurance, 12% have insurance through an employer, 3% have private insurance and 1% have other insurance (not specified).

SERVICE DELIVERY: FY22 data demonstrated the average number of visits per client is approximately 3. Fifty-nine percent (59%) had at least one visit, 37% had at least 2 visits and 5% had 12 more visits.

Further research is required to learn the proportion of clients who are receiving in-person and telehealth services. However, telehealth services are available at all Ryan White service sites.

INCREASED UTILIZATION: One Subrecipient has requested over the past 2 funding cycles to offer mental health services instead of their typically funded substance abuse services. At their site, substance abuse services were grossly under-utilized. The Recipient agreed to this plan. Therefore, the Recipient makes the recommendation to reallocate funds to ensure this service is rendered at this site permanently.

Additionally, increased utilization indicates an increased need. Despite this, Subrecipients have not requested additional funding.