

Pueblo Triple Aim Coalition

Case Statement

Background

Pueblo's Triple Aim Coalition (PTAC) is in the final stages of assessment and strategy development and is now preparing to move into detailed planning and project implementation.

PTAC's goals are to improve health, reduce the per capita cost of care and improve the experience of care in Pueblo County, otherwise known as the "Triple Aim." It will accomplish these by achieving health system efficiencies; focusing efforts on evidence-based approaches; and supporting disciplined measurement and execution.

A Burning Platform

Ever-rising healthcare spending weakens our local economy, threatens jobs, and has failed to deliver improved health. This threatens Pueblo's future by diverting resources from investment in education and growth.

- **Health Insurance Premiums:** increased 3 times as fast as wages
- **Health Care Spending:** now totals nearly 1 billion dollars/year for Pueblo County. Reducing annual per capita spending (from \$6,500 to \$6,000) would produce \$75M in annual savings.
- **County Health Rankings:** Pueblo is 54th out of 59 on Health Outcomes and 56th on Healthy Behaviors

Key contributors to poor health and high health care spending are Pueblo's very high rates of:

- **Obesity:** 28% of residents are obese compared to Greeley (25%) or Grand Junction (21%).
- **Diabetes:** 1 in 15 residents has diabetes. Nearly 30% of local hospital patients have a diabetes diagnosis.
- **Smoking:** 24% of adult residents smoke compared to the Colorado average of 18%.
- **Teen/Unintended Pregnancy:** Pueblo's teen birth rate is 45% higher than the Colorado average.
- **ED Overuse:** costs are 22% higher than Denver, due to "frequent flyers" and mental health issues
- **Suicide rate:** Teen suicide rate is 15.9 per 100,000, compared to the state goal of 10.2 per 100,000

Despite much effort and several bright spots (e.g. excellent access to a usual source of care), overall progress in Pueblo has been badly hampered by the absence of an overarching strategy and a coordinating institution.

Recommendations

PTAC proposes to:

1. **Create a neutral, expertly staffed, not-for-profit, grant-funded, "backbone" organization** to coordinate planning and evaluation; provide technical assistance; pursue funding; and raise community awareness.
2. **Recruit a high-level board of directors** that will provide sponsorship and strategic guidance.
3. **Select evidence-based interventions to reduce costs & improve health** in key focus areas, most likely:
 - Preventing obesity and diabetes, with a focus on schools and workplaces
 - Diverting frequent ED users to more appropriate care settings
 - Reducing tobacco use throughout the community
4. **Create a community scorecard** to measure results and raise community awareness on health issues.

Success Factors

This initiative can succeed in improving health and reducing costs where past efforts have lost momentum:

- Key organizations have agreed to support PTAC and to provide senior-level participants
- The proposed work is closely aligned with state and national health improvement efforts
- High-level measures of success have been agreed to and are being tracked by PTAC
- Proven, cost-effective and evidence-based interventions are now available in both the health care and public health arenas. PTAC is working with nationally-recognized leaders at the IHI and elsewhere.
- PTAC is committed to reducing costs and to establishing a funding model that ensures sustainability

Request

Join us as members of the Pueblo Triple Aim Coalition Board. This board will:

- Have between 9 and 11 members and meet quarterly.
- Provide strategic guidance and sponsorship the Pueblo Triple Aim initiative
- Be supported by an executive director and by an advisory council that will review projects, identify opportunities, develop progress measures and make recommendations to the board.