

Massachusetts Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform: Overview and Implementation Update

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The Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform (Roadmap) aims to increase access to culturally relevant behavioral health care services, including crisis and outpatient services, for all residents regardless of insurance coverage.

Community-Based Entry Points to Massachusetts' Behavioral Health Care System

The Roadmap's components are an integrated part of the Commonwealth's comprehensive behavioral health care continuum to ensure residents can receive services where and when needed.



For more information on the components of the Massachusetts Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform, including updates on implementation, please see the full report, available for download at: <https://www.bluecrossmafoundation.org/publication/massachusetts-roadmap-behavioral-health-reform-overview-and-implementation-update>

Stakeholders broadly support the Roadmap's vision, goals, and the state's ongoing commitment to implementing the Roadmap. Based on feedback from these stakeholders and findings from a literature review, the following opportunities were identified to further the Roadmap's implementation and its goals.

IMPROVEMENTS RELATED TO ROADMAP IMPLEMENTATION

Enhance cross-agency collaboration, communication, and oversight

- Establish or leverage an existing inter-agency government structure to promote state agency collaboration and cohesive oversight of the Roadmap.
- Develop an inter-departmental centralized data dashboard that reports on the status of various aspects of the Roadmap.

Enhance stakeholder engagement and public education on the Roadmap

- Create an ongoing stakeholder engagement and consultation mechanism for state agencies and community partners to share information and continuously improve the Roadmap.
- Develop a public awareness campaign to promote and clarify key aspects of the Roadmap.

Address transportation challenges related to ambulance and law enforcement drop-offs at CBHCs

- Develop solutions to promote ambulance and law enforcement transportation to CBHCs instead of emergency departments for individuals with behavioral health care needs, when appropriate.

Continue to expand coverage of behavioral health care services to ensure access to all Roadmap services for all Massachusetts residents

- Expand behavioral health care coverage of crisis and non-crisis services at CBHCs and services at BHUC sites by all payers to increase access to community-based services.

BROADER SYSTEM REFORMS TO ENHANCE SUCCESS OF THE ROADMAP

Continue to strengthen the behavioral health care workforce through workforce development and payment reforms

- Address the behavioral health care workforce shortage by building, training, and diversifying the workforce in addition to reforming the payment structure for behavioral health care services to attract and retain behavioral health providers.

Improve interoperability and data sharing

- Support implementation of electronic health records among community-based behavioral health care providers to promote data sharing across appropriate providers.

Support and promote community-driven partnerships and solutions that advance equitable access to behavioral health care services

- Support local health equity innovations (e.g., Middlesex Community Restoration Center) to promote equitable delivery of and access to behavioral health care services.