Community Health Workers

March 5, 2015
Children’s Health Alliance of Wisconsin
Federal CMS Ruling

• January 1, 2014
• Changed the definition of preventive services
  – Former: Provided by physician or licensed practitioner
  – New: Recommended by a physician or licensed practitioner
• Services may be provided by practitioners other than physicians or licensed practitioners
Prevention services defined:

• (1) Prevent disease, disability, and other health conditions or their progression;
• (2) Prolong life; and
• (3) Promote physical and mental health and efficiency
State level

• Each state must amend the state health plan to adopt the new rule
  - Define the new practitioners
    • Required education, training, experience, credentialing or registration
  - Identify types of services
  - Rate of reimbursement
  - Referral mechanism
Potential providers:

- Certified asthma educators
- Certified diabetes educators
- **Community health workers**
- Health educators
- School nurses
- Others?
Potential barriers

• Each potential provider group working separately
• Large initial investment
• Defining providers without certification
Opportunities

- Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA) and Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB)
  - Mid-term legislative priority: Reimbursement of prevention services under CMS rule
  - Serve as umbrella organization to create a unified voice
Next steps

• Identify potential partners
• Education
• Continued conversation
• Collect return-on-investment data
• Initial meeting goal: Summer 2015
For more information

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