

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the HHS Transformation entirely cost focused?

The Transformation is about maximizing outcomes given state resources. We believe we can dramatically improve outcomes for the people of Illinois and, as a by-product avoid unsustainable spending, by pursuing three goals: focus on prevention and public health; build a healthcare delivery system based on the best data and evidence; and deliver care in the community to the greatest extent possible.

How can the Transformation proceed given the current funding environment?

Preventive care and moving people from institutional to community care improves livelihoods, produces better outcomes for children and families, and saves money in the long-run.

We also want to ensure that our state is receiving its fair-share of federal funding and will seek opportunities to realize that goal. We are aggressively pursuing opportunities to capture federal matching funds. For example, we were able to obtain 325 additional section 811 vouchers to keep people in supportive housing. While funding levels are being determined, we want to make sure that we are planning for both the short- and long-term needs of the state.

How is this different from the State Health Improvement Plan?

The SHIP is fully aligned with the principles of and approach to the Transformation. We are attempting to use the Transformation as one vehicle through which the SHIP can be further defined and put into practice. The efforts of the stakeholders are being accounted for in the Transformation effort as well.

How is this Transformation effort going to be different from previous efforts?

Never before has Illinois seen such collaboration and alignment across so many agencies seeking bold and transformative change. We believe that focused and united commitment will finally enable the change we have all sought for such a long time.

How long will the Transformation process take?

Large scale transformations necessitate a phased approach that can be sustained over time. Some elements will roll out in the short-term (e.g. the next 6-12 months). Still others will take place over the more medium-term (12-24 months). Broader changes will take more time (24 months+).

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Will this cause facilities in my area to close?

The focus of the Transformation is to ensure Illinoisans receive care provided in the best possible health care environment. There is ample data and evidence to suggest that caring for people in the community improves outcomes. It may be that a natural result of this is decreased need for institutional type facilities but such facilities may be able to be repurposed for other uses. In addition, there is potential federal legislation that will also require states to move away from institutional care.

Is this actually a way to bring about further privatization?

The HHS Transformation is focused on creating the best strategy and solutions to maximize the health of the people of Illinois. It is not political or ideological but instead focused on evidence-based solutions that should appeal to folks of all affiliations. In addition, the majority of health and human service delivery in Illinois is done mostly through private providers.

How can I join a working group or provide feedback?

We are engaging a broad cross-section of stakeholders. We have invited participants that are leading voices in their fields and bring unique perspectives to the Transformation process.

We encourage all providers and advocates to participate in the transformation by engaging with their associations. We also welcome input and questions which can be submitted at hhstransformation.illinois.gov. Two Public Hearings will be held in August 2016 as well, creating an additional forum for input.