

RI SIM's Approach: Adapting the Triple Aim

The following descriptive language reflects the ways that RI SIM now understands and adapts the Triple Aim more completely, and clarifies what it means to us and RI SIM's vision for the future of the State's health system:

Better Health

We look at population health outcomes and disparities across the life course, focusing on equity and the integration of behavioral health (including mental health and substance use) with physical health (including oral health), while also identifying and addressing the social determinants of health. Better health includes promoting social cohesion and connectedness to achieve active patient engagement and support recovery from addiction.

Better Healthcare

This includes a foundation of longer-term planning for an effective health system that melds payment and delivery reforms with investments in healthcare quality improvement and the health workforce (such as Rhode Island's inter-professional training initiatives), and in building the capacity to identify and address social determinants of health. Better healthcare includes a focus on provider satisfaction and avoiding burnout.

Smarter Spending

This includes ongoing implementation of OHIC's Affordability Standards with a continued emphasis on cost management strategies that use practice-based performance improvement strategies. We understand the differences between short-term and long-term cost savings. We also understand that long-term savings require investments (especially in our children) that are often reflected in different areas than the initial expense. For instance, investments in children's behavioral health in one year can reduce costs in DCYF in future years. Additionally, addressing social determinants of health will require building a system that supports strategic investments outside of healthcare including one where financial risk and reward are shared across sectors. For significant long-term savings, we aim to retain investments that improve social services and support place-based community infrastructure to address socio-economic and environmental determinants of health.

RI SIM began our project with the Triple Aim as our vision and through all we have learned over the last three years of the SIM process, the central tenets of our vision based on the Triple Aim of healthcare remain intact.