



Rhode Island Health Care System Planning

Goal: Access and Affordability

December 1, 2025

RHODE ISLAND

Access Meeting Agenda



- Welcome and Meeting Overview
- Review of Long-Term Planning Process
- Planning Discussion
 - Metrics Framework
 - Questions for the Group
- Next Steps
- Public Comment

Review: Developing the Rhode Island Health Care Plan



- The Office of Health Care System Planning is creating the Rhode Island Health Plan to be a comprehensive roadmap for strengthening and transforming our health system – establishing an operational framework for advancing the goals and recommendations put forth in the 2024 Foundational Report
- The Plan is driven by six high-level goals, or vision statements applicable to five system sectors (Primary Care, Behavioral Health, Hospitals, Long-Term Care and Healthy Aging, and Health Related Social Needs).
- The Foundational Report identified strategies and activities/tactics for achieving the goals—some activities are already in motion and others are recommendations for action.
- The next step is to choose measures and targets for each strategy and then nestle these strategies within the structure of a measurable, and time-bound long-term plan.

Review of Health System Goals



1. Ensure **access** to affordable, quality and easy to navigate comprehensive care
2. Ensure **solvency** of the health care system
3. Ensure health **equity** and reduce disparities in access and outcomes
4. Foster an **integrated delivery system** that coordinates care across full spectrum of health services focused on population health, seamless transitions, system-preparedness, and patient-centered care
5. Strengthen **preventative, primary physical & behavioral health care services** to maintain appropriate utilization & promote efficiencies
6. Invest in efforts to address the **social factors that impact health**

Discussion Question

1. Ensure **access** to affordable, quality and easy to navigate comprehensive care
2. Ensure **solvency** of the health care system
3. Ensure health **equity** and reduce disparities in access and outcomes
4. Foster an **integrated delivery system** that coordinates care across full spectrum of health services focused on population health, seamless transitions, system-preparedness, and patient-centered care
5. Strengthen **preventative, primary physical & behavioral health care services** to maintain appropriate utilization & promote efficiencies
6. Invest in efforts to address the **social factors that impact health**

As we review our goals, is there anything missing that you would like to suggest to the Health Care System Planning Cabinet?

Definitions

Goals: are the high-level aims, or vision statements for what the State will achieve over the period of the plan and across interrelated system sectors.

Sector-Specific and Cross-Sector Outcomes : How the goal statements will translate to outcomes within each sector, with an awareness of our cross-sector strategies.

Strategic Objectives: are the action steps to achieve the goals. Some strategies are already in motion; others will be recommended for action. All strategies need to be specific, measurable, actionable, relevant, and timebound (SMART), with clear **targets** toward our goals.

Performance Measures: the way to assess progress on the targets that contribute to achieving the strategic objectives. Performance measures inform progress on overall plan implementation.

Approach



Cabinet
Goal

Community
Feedback

Foundational
Report

Metric
Framework

Example Access Definitions and Measure Domains



Authors	Definition	Measure Domains
Dutton 1986	Utilization viewed as the product of patient's characteristics plus provider and system attributes	Financial Time Organizational Factors
Haddad & Mohindra 2002	The opportunity to consume health goods and services	Availability Affordability Acceptability Adequacy
Peters et al. 2008	Access viewed as including actual use of services. A clear emphasis is given to consider both users and services characteristics in evaluation of access. The notion of fit between users and services is identified.	Quality Geographic Accessibility Availability Financial Accessibility
Levesque et al. 2013	Conceptual framework of Access: the opportunity to identify, seek, reach, obtain, or use healthcare and to ensure the fulfillment of the needs for these services.	Approachability Availability Accommodation Affordability Appropriateness

Rhode Island's Working Definition of Access



Goal 1: Ensuring Access to Affordable, Quality, and Easy to Navigate Comprehensive Care

Working Definition:

Accessible and affordable health care is a person's or a population's ability to identify, reach, and obtain timely and appropriate care without creating undue financial burdens.

Examples of Interdependences that will Inform our Access Planning

- System Interoperability
- Quality Care Delivery
- Healthcare Integration
- System Solvency
- Care Continuums
- Workforce Transformation

Planning Approach



Step 2: Assess Cross-Sector Community Feedback

Access

Community Recommendations and Feedback

- Make healthcare more **accessible and affordable for everyone**, regardless of economic situation or insurance type.
- The system for obtaining health insurance is "designed to be complex," and for many, health itself feels "out of reach" or a "nightmare" due to "deductibles and high costs."

Olmstead Plan Healthcare Access Community Feedback

- The community said that many healthcare providers lack training in disability care, home care aides need better training and oversight, Medicaid reimbursement rates, and fifteen-minute appointments make it harder for providers to serve patients with disabilities, and the shortage of sign language interpreters limits access to care (*Olmstead Plan, 37*).
- When someone has a major mental illness and you send them out with a paper, it is not enough. It sets them up to fail, which is demoralizing." - *Olmstead Community Listening Session Participant*

Plan Integration to other State Efforts (Short, Mid, and Long-Term Planning Considerations)



Access

Rural Health Transformation Program Initiatives

- **Anticipated Initiatives to Support Access:**

- 2: Rural Community-Integrated and Mobile Health Services
- 3: Expand Access to Rural Community Resources
- 4: Rural EMS Health Access and Integration
- 5: Rural Hospital-at-Home Program
- 6: Expand BH Services to Rural Regions
- 7: Strengthen Rural Oral Health Delivery

Federal Compliance Advisory Group

- Anticipated challenges for access – SNAP, Medicaid, Health Insurance Marketplace

Approach



Long-Term Care

- Explore ways to adapt new and emerging technologies that improve home and community-based care to facilitate home-based access to care, and caregiver supports.
- Promote collaboration across state and community councils, workgroups, and taskforces to ensure that resources are deployed efficiently and effectively.

Behavioral Health

- Expand and enhance initiatives that integrate behavioral health into adult and pediatric primary care to strengthen the system of care and expand access
- Continue to promote and support universal behavioral health screenings in both clinical and non-clinical settings for individuals across the age spectrum, including families/caregivers

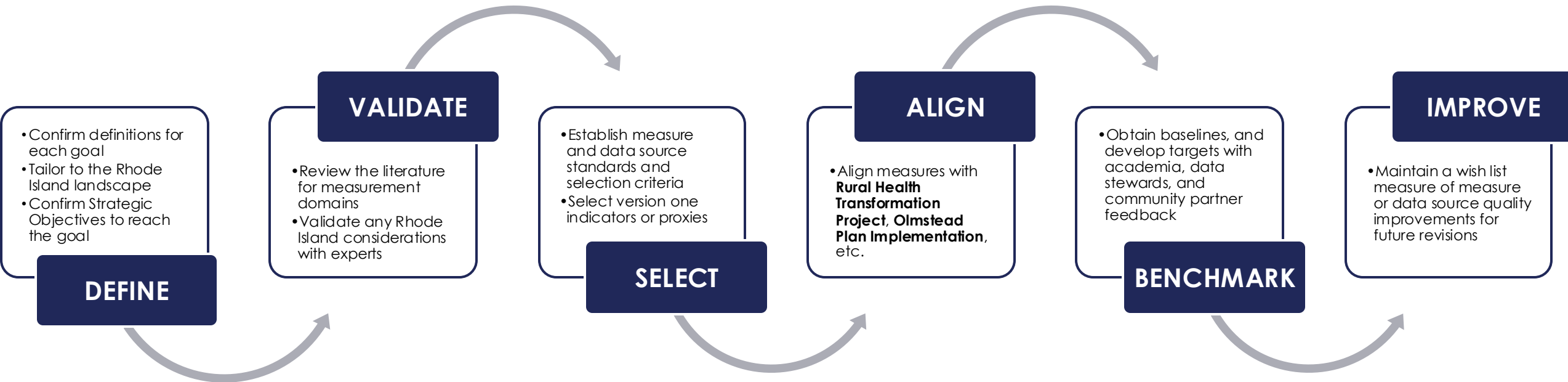
Health-Related Social Needs

- Identify and adopt a clinical community care coordination model (e.g., a Community Care Hub) that links service providers with the community-based organizations that address HRSNs to enhance the referral process between service providers across the continuum

Approach



Measurement Framework Process



Access

Accessibility

- "Location of supply that aligns with location of clients or demand"

Affordability

- "Prices of services meet client's income and ability to pay"

Availability

- "Size or volume of supply meets client's needs"

Accommodation

- "Delivery of healthcare accommodates client's needs"

Acceptability

- "Healthcare providers accept all clients regardless of their characteristics"

Discussion: Metrics Framework for Access

Access

Accessibility	Affordability	Availability	Accommodation	Acceptability
•"Location of supply that aligns with location of clients or demand"	•"Prices of services meet client's income and ability to pay"	•"Size or volume of supply meets client's needs"	•"Delivery of healthcare accommodates client's needs"	•"Healthcare providers accept all clients regardless of their characteristics"

As we've discussed the Access goal, some possibilities are Accessibility, Affordability, Availability, Accommodation, and Acceptability as our Measure Domains.

- What are we missing as Measure Domains?
- Would any of these domains be better categorized under another goal?

Discussion on Metrics Framework



Access

Accessibility

- "Location of supply that aligns with location of clients or demand"

Affordability

- "Prices of services meet client's income and ability to pay"

Availability

- "Size or volume of supply meets client's needs"

Accommodation

- "Delivery of healthcare accommodates client's needs"

Acceptability

- "Healthcare providers accept all clients regardless of their characteristics"

Thinking about the sectors we've been focused on (Primary Care, Behavioral Health, Hospitals, Long-Term Care, and HRSNs) ...

- Do these Measure Domains work in all the sectors?
- If not, is there another suggestion for the sector in which you work?
- Is there anything specific to rural health that you would suggest as a Measure Domain?

Discussion: Metrics Framework



Thinking specifically about the sector in which you work:

- Are there specific measures or measure domains that your sector uses for Access or Affordability that we should consider?
- How far into the future is your sector considering access or affordability?
- Tell us about any other cross-sector work or efforts that are occurring to ***measure, improve, or understand*** Access/Affordability

Next Steps

- With help from our data consultants and subject matter experts, EOHHS will take the next steps with this feedback and create proposals for ongoing consideration.
- We will continue the discussion of Access and Affordability – and address these interdependences that we shared earlier.
- If you have ongoing ideas for metric frameworks and measures, please be in touch: marti.Rosenberg@ohhs.ri.gov.

Thank you!

Public Comment

