

OUR HISTORY

The National Collaborative for Integration of Health & Human Services (formerly, the National Workgroup on Integration)

In September, 2011, APHSA convened the National Workgroup on Integration (NWI). NWI, now the “National Collaborative for Integration of Health and Human Services (National Collaborative),” is comprised of human services and health care leaders in agencies at the state and local level, industry sponsors, non-profit organizations including other state associations, and with partners from across the federal government, to provide thought leadership and guidance on the transformation of health and human services. The work of the National Collaborative focuses on:

- Identifying emerging issues that are enablers or barriers to integrating health and human services and to create a sense of urgency for enterprise transformation;
- Developing guidance and tools to help APHSA members achieve interoperability and integration across health and human service programs;
- Gathering and disseminate best practices enabling leaders to strategically position their organization for system improvement; and
- Recommending changes to laws and regulations.

State agencies are facing significant challenges of rising health care costs, insufficient preventative care and the difficulties of linking or integrating health systems with human services programs. For years now, many APHSA members have worked with varying success toward integrating human services programs to better serve the public. Lack of resources has challenged ongoing efforts. Despite these challenges, the concepts related to organizational governance, service delivery and the technology and accountability systems needed to support integration have continued to be refined and implemented in many state and local human services agencies.

The passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010 and the resulting conversations about the relationships between health services and other government services have further focused the attention of many states on how to either begin or enhance the horizontal integration efforts needed to achieve improved patient/client outcomes and reduced costs in both systems. Recognizing that states are positioned along a continuum in addressing horizontal integration, the National Collaborative remains dedicated to leading this effort toward changing how systems and programs efficiently and effectively work together to improve the health and well-being of individuals, children, families, and communities. The Collaborative will do so by continuing to convene stakeholders, develop guidance that examines the opportunities, the challenges, the readiness factors, and recommendations for states as they explore and reshape this new frontier in government human services.