

RAPID-CYCLE RESEARCH

Findings from Akron Children's Hospital/Kent State University

CONTEXT

Researchers assessed 28 Pathways Community HUB Institute (PCHI) certification prerequisites and standards to determine whether the HUB model fosters aligning across sectors. Additionally, the researchers assessed data from four organizations implementing HUB services in three communities in Ohio and Michigan in order to understand how development of HUB networks translates to on-the-ground reports of aligning.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Do existing national Pathways Community HUB (PCH) certification standards require or encourage aligning across sectors, as measured by the core components of shared purpose, data and measurement, finances, and governance?
- How do community organizations using the PCH model perceive the process and impact of aligning on the ground?
- What factors influence on-the-ground aligning across sectors?

KEY FINDINGS

PCH Standards Provide a Structure to Require and Encourage Development of the Core Components of Aligning



PCHI standards require certified HUBs and their PCH networks to take actions to align their services across the four core components of aligning across sectors. PCH standards most frequently support governance (71%), followed by shared purpose (61%), data and measurement (46%), and finance (42%).

Implementing the PCH Model Supports Aligning Across Sectors in Communities



In practice, those leading HUB implementation efforts report high to very high levels of alignment around purpose and relatively high levels of alignment around data and measurement and shared confidence in decision-making.

Other Factors, in Addition to the PCH Model, Influence Aligning



Other factors driving alignment include strong leadership, trust among participating organizations, past failure to address a problem, and external funding requirements.

Financial Alignment Can Be Challenging

Certified HUBs are making progress in building incentives and accountability for results into their financial arrangements. Across the communities investigated, the two PCHI-certified HUBs reported higher levels of alignment around incentives and accountability than the HUB that had not yet achieved certification.

Leaders of PCH Networks Perceive Aligning as Benefiting At-Risk Populations



Partners implementing the PCH model also perceive that their organizational alignment benefits at-risk populations in their communities.

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