

Beacon Supplemental Funding Interim Progress Report

Moderator: Anna Poker

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3:04 pm CT

Coordinator: Welcome and thank you for standing by. At this time, all participants are in a listen only mode. During the question and answer session, please press the start 1 on your touchtone phone. Today's conference is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. Now I will turn the meeting over to Ms. Anna Poker. You may begin.

Anna Poker: Thank you. Greetings and welcome to everyone on this call and thank you for joining us the Interim Beacon Supplemental Progress Report Technical Assistance call for this Beacon Health Centers located in the Beacon Communities Catchment Areas.

The purpose of this call is to provide HRSA Beacon supplemental awardees guidance in completing the interim progress report.

Before we get started, I'd like to direct you to the technical assistance webpage where you can find the presentation slides, the interim progress

report and the instructions for submitting your interim progress report in the EHB on this Web site.

And the Web site is <http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/apply/assistance/beacon/>.

My name is Anna Poker and I'm a Public Health Analyst in the Office of Quality and Data in the Bureau of Primary Health Care here at HRSA and I'm managing the HRSA Beacon Grants Program. Other presenters on today's call will be our Director of the Office of Quality and Data, Suma Nair and (Michelle Bright) from the Office of Administrative Management also within BPHC at HRSA.

On slide number 2 is the agenda for today and the agenda for today will provide the introduction, review the process for submitting the interim progress reports within the EHB, provide a summary of the Beacon Health Center project, provide guidance in - with completing the interim progress report and review progress report timeless and project contacts.

And we hope to leave time for questions and answers. So first of all, I would to introduce our Director of the Office of Quality and Data, Ms. Suma Nair.

Suma Nair: Great, thank you, Anna. Good afternoon everyone. Thank you for joining us on the call today. I hope you are having a great day and this spring weather is good where you are and you're catching up from all of the things that may have gone on or you may have been at the recent NACHC conference.

So, before we get into the detail of the interim reporting for the Beacon Supplemental Funding, I'd like to set the context for how the Beacon activities play within the larger Health Center Program and our priorities. As

you already know, adoption and meaningful use of health information technology is a key quality priority for the Health Center Program, along hand in hand with the delivery of integrated patient centered medical care, as well as both elements—adoption of meaningful use. Adoption and meaningful use in patients in our medical home work together and are critical elements in advancing our patients' clinical outcome to ensure that they meet or exceed the Healthy People 2020 goal.

The way that over layer background in terms of what our quality priorities are and agenda are, we're really pleased to have this opportunity to partner with ONC to the Beacon Supplemental Program to support health centers in participation with the Beacon Communities Initiative. Especially given that the Beacon Communities Initiative was really focused on advancing the very same goal. Our hope is through the supplemental to really facilitate your participation in the Beacon project and really focus again on quality improvement.

So, as we're reaching the midpoint of this 1-year supplemental opportunity, we were hoping to learn more about your progress to date on your project, lesson learned, any challenges that you've identified as you move forward with your activities proposed under this project.

We report about 85 health centers out of our 1,100 health centers that we have in the health center family. So, really looking at the part of this supplemental funding and the main point was to really support you in engaging with the Beacon and quality improvement, but another important thing for the program was to really learn the lessons from your activities and share those resources and learnings across the entire health center family.

As you know, close to 65 percent of our health centers have already adopted electronic health records and probably the number when we get the 2011 UDS, we'll be significantly higher. So we're now moving the conversation among the Health Center Program beyond adoption, really to the meaningful use piece and how do you use information once you have it in the system, how do you extract it, how you use it for sharing with others in the medical neighborhood, and how you use it for quality improvement.

So, it's really great to learn from what you all are doing to advance that as leaders in some of that work to share it with our broader health center family. And in addition we know the Stage 2 regs have come out for meaningful use, again, focused on data information exchange and reporting, and quality improvement. So, again, hoping to use some of the lessons learned from you all to advance the work that we do more broadly in the Health Center Program.

So, we want to share our successes across the board and we particularly, I think, in the work that you all have done with the Beacon community, want to learn from the relationship. So we're moving beyond the implementation piece to now some of the higher order how you build a relationship outside of the four walls of the health center. And how do you figure out how best to develop that relationship and trust and then share the information for quality improvement more broadly than even the health center patients, but population health improvement.

So, as a result, we're going to work on this and the work that you all are doing are really critical to this effort and critical to shifting the - and supporting the Health Center Program in participating with the shifting health care delivery model. And really I think our precursors for some of the

work that you are already beginning to do around accountable care organizations, shared savings. So really looking to learn from this and think about what are the program policy implications as a part of the work and efforts that you are making to this end.

So that's the background or context some of what we're going to be looking for in these progress reports. And Anna and Michelle will go more into the mechanics of the process as well as some of the sections of the reporting, but please keep that in mind as you're sharing your lessons learned and your outcomes to date. And think about how do we spread this investment in the 85 health centers, have some dividends across the entire health center family.

Anna Poker: I would like to next introduce (Michelle Bright) to provide the instructions to submitting the progress reports in EHB.

(Michelle Bright): Thank you, Anna. Good afternoon everyone. I will review the instructions on how you access and submit the report within EHB. Of course, first you will log into your EHB account and then you will open up your H80 Grant Handbook. And within your H80 Handbook, you will then click into the Other Submissions section. Your Beacon Interim Report is considered an Other Submission. Once in the Other Submission section, you will see the submission for the Beacon Interim Report and you can click on Start Submission. The report template will be located within that submission and you can click on Download to download the template. And at that point you are then able to save the template onto your computer, work on it, you can complete it according to the instructions that Anna will provide you.

When you have completed your report and you are ready to submit, you will go back into EHB, back into that Other Submission section. Open the submission back up and click on Attach where you then simply attach the document as you would attach any document. For example, if you're sending someone an email. You click on Finished Attaching and at that point you are ready to submit. You simply click on the Submit button. As always in EHB, there's a Confirmation button and you simply click on Confirm to confirm that you do want to submit your report.

So, I realize that's a very brief overview but this is following just your standard procedures for submitting, for example, when you need to submit revised fees schedules or just any other deliverables that are required of you as a grantee. And if you do have any questions on accessing or submitting the report, you can always call the BPHC Helpline, which is 877-974-2742.

Anna Poker: Thank you Michelle. We are on slide number 4 and just to remind everybody, the purpose of this Supplemental Award is to support health centers with adoption of health information technology for long-term improvements in quality of care, health outcomes, and cost efficiency.

HRSA developed this supplemental funding opportunity using Affordable Care Act funds for health centers to more fully participate in the Beacon-wide community effort to share data and information towards improving health care delivery and health outcomes. Eligibility for this award was determined by service areas as defined by counties and ZIP codes and the awards were made September 2011 where \$8.5 million to fund 85 health centers in 15 of the 17 Beacon communities across the country and the project period is 1 year.

Slide number 5 provides a visual representation of both the HRSA Beacon Health Centers and the ONC Beacon grantees. Please note that under the state with the ONC Beacon grants the numeric value corresponds with a number of HRSA Beacon funded awards with that Beacon community region.

On slide number 6, we're just going to provide a summary of the health center activities this supplemental grant funds. There were 85 health centers with a total of 734 total sites that applied for the Beacon supplemental funding opportunity. Each health center plans to use the funds for multiple clinical and non-clinical interventions to achieve a variety of performance goals.

The 54 of the 85 health centers will be expanding their workforce capacity to improve quality initiatives. Thirty-seven health centers will be using contractual and/or consultant services for QI activities and 40 of the 85 plan to purchase hardware and/or software to build their health information infrastructure. Again, these numbers reflect that each health center is using these funds for multiple interventions and that is why the numbers do not add up to 85.

Slide number 7 is an overview of what these report proposed projects are. So the first bullet on this slide shows the top performance improvement goals selected by health centers. And if you can see care coordination and chronic care management were the two top performance goals. For clinical intervention is diabetes care management or chronic care disease management. And for non-clinical interventions, all the grantees will be sharing data with their respective Beacon communities, 45 of the 85 will be building the HIT infrastructure and 37 of the 85 will be expanding their workforce. The collaborations sections of this slide is not a comprehensive

list, as not all applicants discuss partnerships and they did not always clearly define if the partnerships are ongoing or if they were triggered by the current Beacon supplemental effort.

That brings us slide number 8 and this is just a visual representation progress report and hopefully you all have the progress report with you. And as far as the Beacon Supplement Award, grantees are required to complete two progress reports. The interim progress report, the one we are discussing today, and a final report that will be due at the completion of this project.

Now moving on to slide number 9, the first bullet is about just general instructions. Please fill out all the fields that correspond to your application, quantify your responses whenever possible and remember that you can also upload attachments if needed with this report. The Question Number 1, the clinical and non-clinical intervention, select all applicable interventions and if your intervention's not specified, use the other field. Indicate yes or no next to the selected field. Provide a brief description of the intervention and an update with key accomplishment achieved to date.

So an example of a clinical intervention may be, if you select diabetes as your clinical intervention you want to reduce blood sugar levels among your diabetic patients. So the description of your intervention may be we're going to reduce blood sugar levels for patients 18 to 75 years of age who have a diagnosis of diabetes Type 1 and Type 2.

Assuming that on your application action plan you defined your performance improvement goal for diabetes is to increase by 10 percent the proportion of diabetic patients with HbA1c Level is equal to or less than 7 percent, then your progress to date may be that we have increased by 3 percent the

proportion of patients with HbA1c Levels are below or equal to 7 percent. In this example, a key milestone for you might be that we completed nutritional group trainings for all diabetic patients. So these are just examples to help you to fill out these questions.

On the second portion of this question, if you're working on non-clinical intervention and you're selected measure is building technical infrastructure and you're in the process of conducting system upgrades and/or enhancements to allow for full EHR integration and alignment with your - for meaningful use. A description of this intervention may be you're conducting an upgrade from Version 1 or Epic Version 1 to Version 1.5 of Epic to align with meaningful use and to allow improved tracking of internal clinical interventions like various diabetes metrics for five of your 10 federally qualified health center sites by the award complete date.

These are just examples again and your progress to date may be - yes, as of six months we've installed Version 1.5 in two of the five sites and completed training and a key milestone may be that these sites are actually tracking the respective diabetes metrics that we plan to track.

So, for Question Number 1, give an indication how you are progressing towards your own goals as you presented in your original application action plan.

Question Number 2, provide lessons learned and accomplishments for the entire project. Describe your project progress to date and lessons you've learned for your selected intervention and for the entire project. This is your opportunity to share with us a broader perspective beyond the specific

interventions and to share lessons learned so that we can share your findings and best practices with other health centers and safety net communities.

So for example, you may be sharing - you may want to discuss with us how this funding supports your sustainability goals. You may share with us about the importance or the significance of working with your Beacon grantee, how participating in their governing structure has impacted your workflows or your work. And some of you, for example, have shared that the significance of the timing of this award has been really beneficial for you. So we would like to hear your story.

And then we're going on to the next page, page - slide number 10 and Question Number 3 project challenges and barriers that you are dealing with currently in your project. Please remember that if you have overcome certain challenges and barrier, you should be including them in your previous section under accomplishments and lessons learned. This section will help guide us to establish future trainings and technical assistance programs.

Question Number 4, select all that apply and describe ways that this grant funding has supported your work towards aligning with meaningful use incentive, obtaining PCMH recognition and advances clinical improvements and outcomes to date. So for example, UDS measure clinical outcomes. Has this additional funding improved your UDS data collection in any way? Has it impacted your analysis methodology or has it impacted your UDS reporting outcome - reported outcome - or maybe all of the above.

Question Number 5, identify collaborative partners. Select all the partners that applied and use the other section for any partnerships not listed. Use this section to describe ways this supplemental award is being used to screen

board your work towards other collaborations and partnerships. So for example, grantees have shared with us that the result of this - as a result of this supplemental award, they're working closely with their community hospital or other community entities to reduce redundancies to improve care transitions. Others of you may be building academic partnerships or you may have been invited to serve on committees or other governance groups. So, again, please share your story with us and whenever feasible, please quantify your responses.

And the next to the last slide, slide number 11, provides some key contacts and timelines, the most important one here being that the progress report's due date is May 1 of this year, and this is a hard deadline. The contact for program related issues, myself, Anna Poker. For budgetary related issues is Brian Feldman. For anything related to the EHB type of questions, please contact the BPHC Helpline. And the very bottom bullet is our technical assistance resource Web site for the Beacon Project and here you will find material about defending opportunity announcement, frequently asked questions, the current progress report and a lot of other information.

Again, we're going to be opening this up very shortly for questions and answers. But please bear in mind that if you do not get to ask any of your questions at this time or if questions come up later as you are preparing your progress reports, please contact us and use the above contact information for any questions you may have.

So with that said, (Vicky) I think we're open - we're ready to open it up for questions and answers.

Coordinator: Thank you. We will now begin the question and answer session. If you would like to ask a question, please press star 1. You will be prompted to record your name. To withdraw your request press star 2. Once again, to ask a question please press star 1. One moment.

Anna Poker: Okay, well, that's fine. All the information is still available if at a later date you do think of any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. And again, thank you very much for joining us and we are very excited and looking forward to reading your progress report.

Suma Nair: And just as an administrative note reminder, the call will be recorded and available shortly after this call, it'll be posted. The access information on the technical assistance Web site, which Anna read off at the beginning but also on the last slide in our PowerPoint presentation. Again, the due date is May 1 for the progress reports and we thank you and - for your participation today and look forward to hearing about the great progress that you've already made. Thank you.

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