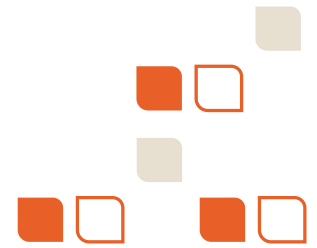


Value-Based Care Programs in Integrated Care Settings



This infographic was developed in connection with, and inspired by, the webinar titled **Paving the Way for Pediatric Behavioral Health Integration Through a Multi-Payer Pilot: Primary Pathways** held on July 8, 2025, with acknowledgements to: Lauryn Walker, RN, PhD; Nadia Islam, PhD, LCP; Shannon Lea, MPH.

For further context, please visit the [Center of Excellence for Integrated Health Solutions \(CoE-IHS\) webpage](#) or the [Primary Care Development Corporation website](#).

An Introduction to Value-Based Care Programs^{1,2}

Value-based payment (VBP) or value-based care (VBC) programs are models that base payments on the quality and value of care provided. These programs have increased in popularity due to the recognition of three trends:



Health care is becoming the largest expense for employers, States, and the Federal Government.



Access to high-quality, well-coordinated primary and behavioral health care is essential to improving individual and community health.



Fee-for-service payment structures do not align with expansion in primary care or control of overall expenses.

Other Value-Based Payment Terms You May See:

- Value-Based Purchasing
- Pay-for-Performance (P4P)
- Pay-for-Quality (P4Q)
- Accountable Care
- Population Health
- Quality Incentives

VBC shifts away from:

- Requiring every service to be tied to a billable visit.
- Maximizing the billable service in each visit.
- Focusing on visit volume and provider productivity.



Shifts towards:

- Risk stratification to prioritize patients with the highest need.
- More complete documentation of patient needs.
- Whole-person care that addresses non-medical drivers of health.

Use Case - Primary Pathways: Paving the Way for Pediatric Behavioral Health Integration Through a Multi-Payer Pilot in Virginia³

Key Challenges Driving the Need for Primary Pathways

Challenges Affecting Access to Behavioral Healthcare:



Leading cause of provider burnout.

35th

Virginia's national ranking for **primary care** workforce ratios

48th

Virginia's national ranking for **child mental health** care

Who

This pilot impacted counties in light blue on the map, which included:

33

Pediatric practice sites

11

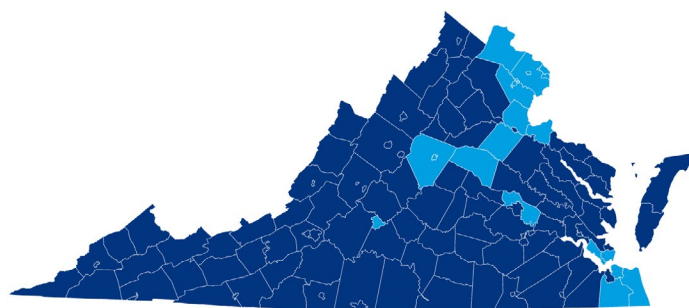
Behavioral health providers

195

Primary care providers

17,000

Children enrolled in Medicaid



Source: Virginia Center for Health Innovation

How

The Primary Pathways Payment Model is a multi-payer alignment pilot to expand and support pediatric practices in caring for the behavioral health needs of their patients. The Virginia Center for Health Innovation (VCHI) implemented a public-private partnership approach and collaborated with health plans and primary care practices.

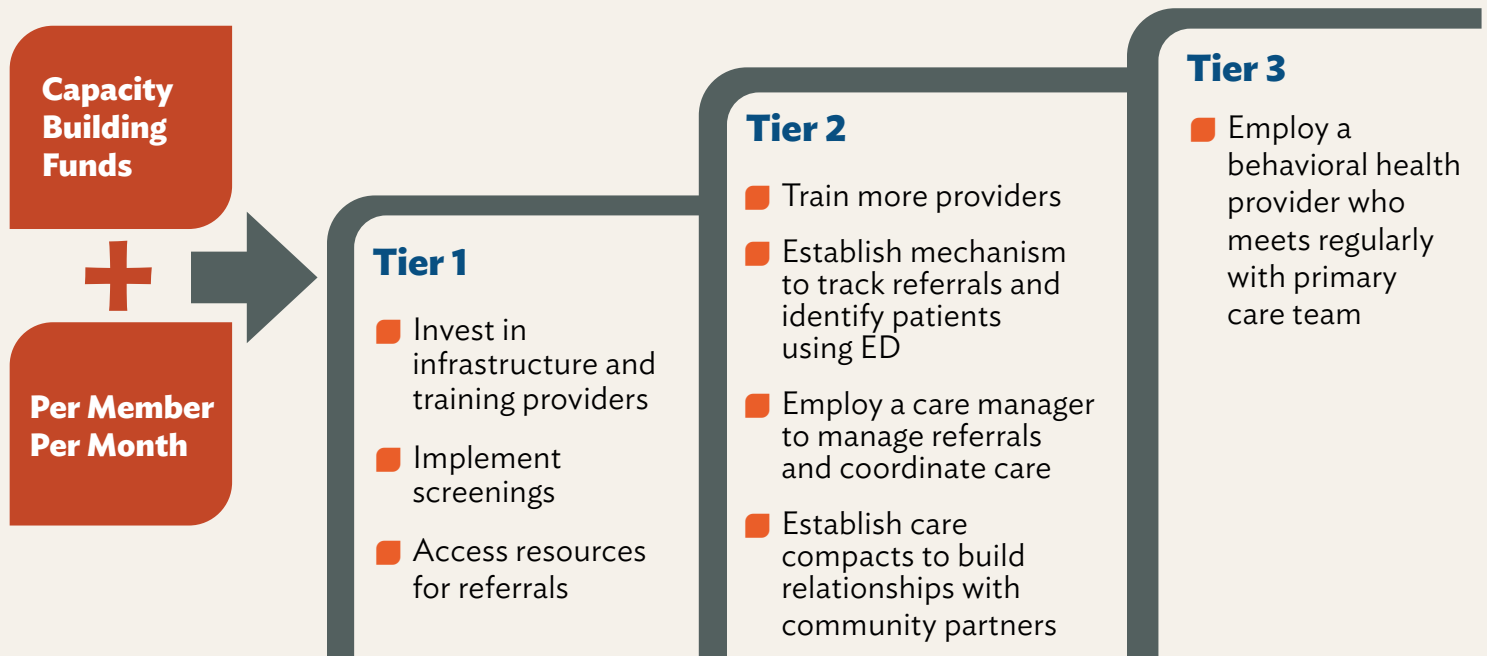


- VCHI operated as a third-party convener and supported pilot design, recruited health plans and primary care practices, and guided implementation and evaluation.
- As payers, Health Plans supported design, determined rates/payments, aided in practice selection, and participated in contract negotiation. The Health Plans also supported implementation and evaluation.
- Primary Care Practices functioned as care providers and supported design, negotiated contracts, implemented the integrated care model, and supported evaluation.

Through the public-partnership approach, the model structure supports:

1. Increased training for primary care providers in behavioral health.
2. Provided sustainable funding for practices integrating behavioral health into their care.
3. Promoted increased levels of integration of behavioral health into primary care practices.
4. Reduced burnout among primary care providers and behavioral health providers.
5. Improved care for children and adolescents with behavioral health needs.

Provider organizations engage through a **tiered approach**, which supports organizations to increase capacity for and quality of behavioral health and primary care for Medicaid children and adolescents.



Early Outcomes



Increased Access to Resources to Enhance Referrals

- Established a learning community that meets monthly
- Developed a private online website for resources and toolkits
- Created a “crowdsourced” provider directory for community behavioral health providers



Improved Care Management Supports

- Partnered with Virginia Mental Health Access Program (VMAP) and University of Virginia Doctor of Nursing Practice students for additional support
- Supported connection to health information exchange platforms
- Developed care compact templates
- Assigned single point of contact for plans, with designated health plan care managers for support



Refined Population Management Activities

- Developed reporting tools in collaboration with providers and health plans
- Engaged providers on meaningful population health measures for evaluation
- Facilitated cross-practice learning through monthly Learning Collaborative meetings and surveys



Quote from Provider:

"Within weeks [of participating in the pilot], we had already identified sisters with complex behavioral health needs and were able to get them working with a care manager who got them into therapies, worked with their school, and was able to find their mother critical supports."

— *Primary Pathways Provider*

What's Next

- Expanding practices and payers, especially across rural areas
- More comprehensive use of self-assessment tools, billing guidance, models of care
- Facilitated coaching for practices
- Workgroups to conduct root cause analyses on continued implementation barriers

References

1. National Council for Mental Wellbeing, Center of Excellence for Integrated Health Solutions (September 2025). Comprehensive Health Integration (CHI) Framework: White Paper, Second Edition. <https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/resources/the-comprehensive-health-integration-framework/>
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