

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND TROPICAL MEDICINE

Department of Health Policy and Management

January 2024

1115 Waiver (SUD) Evaluation Annual Report (DY6)

This report contains a summary of activity on the 1115 Waiver (SUD) Evaluation project from January 2023 to December 2023.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

During the period defined in this report, Tulane continued regular monthly meetings with its research team and quarterly meetings with LDH to ensure consistent project coordination. The research team continued their work on the three sub-analyses: Cost, Quantitative, and Qualitative. Tulane also collaborated with LDH on drafting the Evaluation Design for the 1115 Waiver renewal period and writing the Draft Summative Evaluation Report based on guidance from CMS.

January – March 2023

The January meeting of the Tulane research team was held on January 9th. During this meeting, each lead researcher provided an update on their analysis and shared what information, or elements were in process. The following items were discussed:

- Revision of the Evaluation Design for DY6-10
 - What are CMS’s expectations for the future of the evaluation?
 - Qualitative:
 - Identify mechanisms for connecting with key stakeholders.
 - Explore specific research questions that can frame the evaluation for the stakeholders.
 - Quantitative: Improving the rigor of the analysis using T-MSIS data.

The first quarterly meeting with LDH was held on January 10th. Representatives from CMS attended the second half of the meeting to propose revisions to the Evaluation Design for DY6-10. The following items were discussed:

- LDH received approval for the waiver renewal in December 2022. The revised evaluation plan will be due at the end of May 2023. The Summative Evaluation Report for the first 5-year period is due June 2024.
- CMS provided feedback and additional activities they are hoping to see incorporated into the renewal period.
 - Stakeholder and provider perspectives will be crucial in the renewal period.
 - What is the meaningful impact and value of the 1115 waiver funding?

- LDH will send the revised STCs to Tulane.
- CMS will share resources with Tulane to help engage providers and stakeholders.

A meeting between Tulane and LDH was held on January 27th to discuss the process and next steps for executing a contract with Tulane for the renewal period, DY6-10.

The Tulane research team met with LDH on February 9th to discuss the addition of a deliverable to the current contract for the revision to the Evaluation Design. LDH provided a work plan that detailed the schedule of meetings, drafts, and feedback to facilitate the process of revising the Design.

The February meeting of the Tulane research team was held on February 16th. During this meeting, each lead researcher provided an update on their analysis and shared what information, or elements were in process. The following items were discussed:

- Progress Reports on Analyses (opportunity to share findings, barriers, needs, or concerns)
 - Quantitative: Stratified analyses (Ex. Fentanyl), Look at deaths state vs. state.
 - Qualitative: What are specific qualitative research questions we want to explore and propose to LDH for the renewal period?
- Revision of the draft Evaluation Design (due to CMS 5/31/23)
 - CMS STCs were received on 1/11.
 - LDH provided a work plan detailing the timeline for revision, and Tulane has confirmed the dates and times of the meetings.
 - The research team will schedule internal weekly meetings throughout this process.
 - To move forward with the addition of the Evaluation Design deliverable, Tulane must provide LDH with a budget estimate and adjustments to the scope of work language from the original contract.
- Contract Renewal (DY6-10)
 - The draft contract is currently under review at the state level, with the Medicaid office.

The Tulane research team met internally on February 28th, March 7th, March 14th, March 21st, and March 28th to discuss ongoing work to revise the Evaluation Design. The following topics were discussed:

- Quantitative:
 - Current Monitoring Metrics have been received from LDH.
 - Explore the potential use of another state's Medicaid data as a control group for difference-in-difference analysis.
 - Determine specifications for states that would be comparators and consider potential data obstacles.
 - The cost of the TMSIS data was investigated.
 - Obtain the report for each of the states that have done a cross-state analysis.
- Qualitative:

- Reaching beneficiaries for feedback will require assistance from LDH.
- Will be performing interviews and focus groups only, no surveys.
- Propose travel for in-person meetings with stakeholders, in areas across the state.
- Summary of qualitative components from the other state's evaluation documents.
- Exploring subpopulation analysis approaches.
- Progress of Evaluation Design Revision
 - Updating Evaluation Goals to align with the STCs.
 - Mid-point Assessment will be included in the Evaluation Design

The first draft of the revised Evaluation Design was submitted to LDH on March 6th.

The Tulane research team met with LDH on March 13th to discuss the status of the Evaluation Design revisions. The following items were discussed:

- Revisions to the demonstration goals have not been finalized. LDH will share them with Tulane once they are final.
- Language changes to the model assumptions
- Potential for sourcing data from other states' Medicaid programs to perform a comparison analysis.
- IRB will need to be new or amended for the next contract. Application for continued research. DSA and BAA will likely be revised as well.

As of March 31st, the following items have been received from LDH:

- CMS STCs for DY 6-10
- 1115 SUD Demonstration Waiver Administrative Cost Report - CY22 – December
- Current Monitoring Metrics
- CMS Memo to Louisiana on Interview Recruitment Strategies

April – June 2023

The Tulane research team met internally on April 4th, April 11th, and April 25th to discuss ongoing work to revise the Evaluation Design. The following topics were discussed:

- Quantitative
 - Exploring potential sources of data to perform cross-state comparison analyses.
 - Review of state evaluations that utilized cross-state comparison analyses.
 - Justification for performing cross-state comparison analyses.
 - Revised Monitoring Protocol for the renewal period.
- Qualitative
 - Exploring subpopulation analysis approaches.
 - Availability of subgroup data, as it is currently not part of the evaluation.
 - Propose travel for in-person meetings with stakeholders, in areas across the state.
 - Connecting with providers and beneficiaries to implement qualitative methods.
- Progress of Evaluation Design Revision

- Confirmation that the revised goals and milestones should align with the renewal STCs.
- Reconciling the driver diagram with the revised goals and milestones.
- Privacy and IRB
- Data Storage

The second draft of the revised Evaluation Design was submitted to LDH on April 14th.

A second quarterly meeting with LDH was held on April 14th. The primary goal of this meeting was to review the terms of the new CEA for the renewal period. The following topics were discussed:

- Addition of technical assistance work by the Quality office.
- Deliverable schedule and associated costs.
- Tulane data storage platform.
- Potential revisions to the Data Sharing Agreement.

The Tulane research team met with LDH on April 24th to discuss mutual feedback on the revisions to the Evaluation Design. The following topics were discussed:

- Shifting the focus of the evaluation from the previous goals to the ones established in the renewal STCs.
- Identifying an intervention and metric for measuring goal #7.
- How to utilize sub-population stratification within the metrics.
- Use of Medicaid data from another state to create a comparison group for analysis.
- Proposal for the sourcing and use of T-MSIS data for cross-state comparison analysis.
- Inclusion of evaluator expenses as administrative costs in the cost analysis.
- Potential for expanding Medicaid SUD treatment to incarcerated populations.

The Tulane research team met internally on May 2nd and May 11th to discuss ongoing work to revise the Evaluation Design. The following topics were discussed:

- Quantitative: Plan for sourcing T-MSIS data and accessing the data quality, to be presented to LDH at the next joint meeting.
- Qualitative: Plan for analyzing sup-populations to be included in the next set of revisions.
- Progress of Evaluation Design Revision
 - Alignment of the driver diagram and table with the set of goals from the renewal STCs and metric directional changes.
- Data Storage

The Tulane research team met with LDH on May 10th. The primary goal was to discuss the use of T-MSIS Medicaid claims data from other comparable state(s) to perform a difference-in-difference analysis. The following topics were discussed:

- Current evaluation methods are limited to pre-post analysis using only Louisiana Medicaid claims data, which limits the impact of the results because we are unable to separate the

waiver's impact from national trends. Using this data as a control group would allow us to isolate the effect of the waiver.

- T-MSIS data quality assessment
- Revising the Evaluation Plan
 - Language will be added to the next draft of the evaluation plan for the addition of difference-in-difference analysis.
 - Tulane will prepare a scope of work for this analysis including specifics around the data source and usage, to be presented to CMS.
 - LDH also requested specific examples of how the comparisons will be made to share with their Executive Management Team.

The third draft of the revised Evaluation Design was submitted to LDH on May 14th.

The Tulane research team met with LDH on May 16th and 22nd to discuss mutual feedback on the revisions to the Evaluation Design.

The fourth draft of the revised Evaluation Design was submitted to LDH on May 22nd.

The Tulane research team met with LDH on May 26th to discuss pending issues with and revisions to the Evaluation Design. The following topics were discussed:

- Addition of a separate table showing the goal of reducing overdose deaths (Evaluation Question 4).
- Update the driver diagram to the most recent version.
- Remove the sub-population analysis of indigenous people, as this data is currently not available or measured.
- Remove the difference-in-difference analysis utilizing T-MSIS data for cross-state comparison.

The final draft of the revised Evaluation Design was submitted to LDH on May 27th.

The Tulane research team did not meet in June as there were no agenda items to discuss while awaiting CMS feedback on the Evaluation Design for years 6-10.

As of June 30th, the following items were received from LDH:

- Draft CEA Effective July 2023

July – September 2023

A quarterly meeting with LDH scheduled for July 11th was canceled as there were no new agenda items that required a meeting. Instead of a meeting, the following topics were discussed via email.

- LDH requested a proposed work plan for the Summative Evaluation report be submitted by July 21st.
 - Guidance was provided on the submission dates of the first (1/9/24) and final (5/1/24) drafts.

- Status of the CEA for Years 6-10

The July meeting of the Tulane research team was held on July 18th. During this meeting, each lead researcher provided an update on their analysis and shared what information, or elements were in process. The following items were discussed:

- Workplan for the Summative Evaluation report
- Amending the IRB for the renewal period
- Status of CMS's review of the renewal period Evaluation Design
- Status of the CEA for Years 6-10
- Requesting monthly data for Demonstration Year 5 from LDH and ULM

Tulane submitted the proposed work plan for the Summative Evaluation report on July 20th.

The August meeting of the Tulane research team was held on August 22nd. During this meeting, each lead researcher provided an update on their analysis and shared what information, or elements were in process. The following items were discussed:

- Updates to the work plan for the Summative Evaluation Report
- Proposal for calculating the monthly data for IET & FUA measures internally.
 - Beginning with DY5, the Tulane team will calculate the measures based on previous HEDIS specifications. Matching the formulas that ULM had used for previous years.
- DY5 measures in monthly format have been requested from LDH.
- Qualitative analysis data collection planned for October/November, pending IRB approval.
- Amending the IRB for the renewal period
- Status of the CMS's review of the renewal period Evaluation Design.
- Status of the CEA for Years 6-10

The September meeting of the Tulane research team was held on September 19th. During this meeting, each lead researcher provided an update on their analysis and shared what information, or elements were in process. The following items were discussed:

- Presenting the proposal to LDH for monthly data calculations of IET & FUA measures.
- LHD is expected to send the DY5 monthly measures by the end of September.
- Status of the CMS review of the renewal period Evaluation Design.
- Status of the CEA for Years 6-10
- Process for routing the IRB amendment for Tulane and LDH approval.
- Internal transfer of Medicaid data to the new data storage platform at Tulane.
 - Obtaining data tables that were lost in the transfer.
 - Procedure for performing calculations in the new platform.

As of September 30th, the following items have been received from LDH:

- OBH Letter of Support
- CEA approved by LDH Legal

October-December 2023

The fourth quarterly meeting with LDH was held on October 10th. The following topics were discussed:

- LDH agreed to Tulane’s proposed solution for calculating monthly data for IET & FUA measures internally moving forward.
- Status of Demonstration YR5 Monthly Data
- Status of Evaluation Design (needed for IRB)

The October meeting of the Tulane research team was held on October 17th. During this meeting, each lead researcher provided an update on their analysis and shared what information, or elements were in process. The following items were discussed:

- Progress Reports on Analyses (opportunity to share findings, barriers, needs, or concerns)
 - Quantitative:
 - Monthly Data for IET & FUA Measures
 - DY5 data received on October 10th.
 - Qualitative:
 - Ready to move forward with IRB approval.
 - Cost Analysis:
 - Administrative Cost Reports have not been received for DY6.
- Status of Evaluation Design (needed for IRB)
- Status of the CEA for Years 6 – 10

The November meeting of the Tulane research team was held on November 21st. During this meeting, each lead researcher provided an update on their analysis and shared what information, or elements were in process. The following items were discussed:

- Progress Reports on Analyses (opportunity to share findings, barriers, needs, or concerns)
 - Quantitative:
 - Monthly Data for IET & FUA Measures
 - Timeline for DY5 data analysis
 - Qualitative:
 - Ask LDH for assistance with finding a contact for the statewide health department network.
 - Cost Analysis:
 - Administrative Cost Reports have not been received for DY6.
- Status of Evaluation Design
- IRB amendment was submitted to both LDH and Tulane for review. Tulane provided feedback and requested significant edits.
- Summative Evaluation first draft

The December meeting of the Tulane research team was held on December 12th. During this meeting, each lead researcher provided an update on their analysis and shared what information, or elements were in process. The following items were discussed:

- Discuss results and plan report writing.
 - Context around how interventions have developed over the previous 5-year period.
 - Highlight key metrics that require interpretation from LDH.
 - Are there significant policy changes, unrelated to the waiver, that could describe some of these unexplained trends?
 - Plan for interpreting the results.

The Tulane research team met with LDH on December 20th to discuss the Summative Evaluation Report.

The Tulane research team met internally on December 21st to discuss ongoing work to draft the Summative Evaluation Report.

As of December 31st, the following items were received from LDH:

- Monthly Metric Data 2022

Status of analysis by topic – December 31, 2022

Quantitative Analyses (Lead Researcher: Dr. Kevin Callison): The Quantitative Analyses through 2022 were completed for all metrics, pending updated data from LDH. The results will be presented in the Summative Evaluation Report.

Cost Analyses Report (Lead researcher: Dr. Charles Stoecker): The Cost Analyses through 2022 have been completed, pending updated data from LDH. The results will be presented in the Summative Evaluation Report.

Care Coordination (Lead researcher: Dr. Janna Wisniewski): The Care Coordination Analyses through 2022 have been completed and results will be presented in the Summative Evaluation Report.

DELIVERABLE STATUS

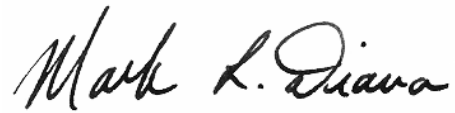
Quarterly and Annual Reports: Quarterly reports have been submitted on deadline and have summarized the evaluation feedback process with LDH and CMS. Quarterly reports for DY6 Q2 and DY6 Q3 have been invoiced to date.

Data reports: The analysis results for Demonstration Year 5 will be incorporated into the Summative Evaluation Report for DYs 1-5.

USE OF FUNDS

Funds have been used for this project to cover faculty and staff time to coordinate activity within Tulane and with LDH, and to develop reports and associated deliverables.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark L. Diana". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark L. Diana, PhD

Professor

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