

Checklist to Analyze Your State Benchmark Plan

- Determine whether work on your state's base-benchmark plan has already been completed
 - Connect with fellow state MH/SUD advocates to determine whether they have the plan documents for your state's base-benchmark plan and have done any analysis
 - Check with any national associations your organization is a part of to determine whether they have completed any analysis of your state's base-benchmark plan
 - Share and compare any analysis stakeholders have put together to avoid duplication of work
 - To obtain information about your state benchmark plan, go to <http://www.statereforum.org/>, click Documents, click on the Category drop-down menu and select Benefit Design
 - If your state plan documents are not on www.statereforum.org, go to the federal Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO) website, <http://cciio.cms.gov/resources/data/ehb.html>, and select the plan information for your state.
 - Note: The most complete information can be found in the actual plan documents and contracts. Summaries of the plan coverage, including the data on the CCIIO website, are often incomplete, omitting information about benefit exclusions, financial requirements and treatment limitations that is critical to conducting a full analysis of MH/SUD service coverage in your state's plan. If you are unable to get the full plan information, be sure to note this in your comments to the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and that complete, accurate information is needed to conduct a more thorough review.
- Use available tools and templates with draft language for to shape your analysis of your State's benchmark plan. Templates include:
 - EHB Tool
 - Templates on common problem areas of MH/SUD coverage:
 - Scope of coverage for MH/SUD is inadequate
 - MH/SUD medication coverage is inadequate
 - Key service is excluded (examples: residential SUD treatment, treatment utilizing methadone)
 - Financial requirements and/or treatment limitations on MH/SUD services are more restrictive than those for other medical/surgical benefits
- Include in your comments any state- or local-specific data and information about the number of people in need of MH/ SUD services, information about your program and the people you serve, and how good coverage of MH and SUD services is critical to improving the health of individuals, families and communities in your state and saving money
- Encourage other organizations in your state to sign-on to your EHB comments and/or to use them as a template that they will also submit
- Share your draft comments with the Coalition for Whole Health (dbelnap@lac.org or gdelagueronniere@lac-dc.org) so the Coalition's EHB comments can highlight any areas of problem MH/SUD coverage in your state's base-benchmark plan
- Submit your comments to HHS by 5:00 pm ET on December 26th through www.regulations.gov
 - Share your comments with allied stakeholders and decision-makers to educate them about your state's base-benchmark plan's MH/SUD coverage