Influencing Health Systems Change Efforts: The Network’s Agenda
At the 2016 Fall Regional Meetings of the Colorado Network of Health Alliances, CCMU facilitated brainstorming sessions to develop initial ideas around the development of an agenda to influence health systems change efforts throughout the state. The brainstorming session focused on the development of core principles, issue areas, tactics, and goals.

Core Principles: Network members were asked to create core principles that drive the Network’s engagement influencing health systems change efforts.

- Work towards achieving the triple (quadruple aim)
- Engage affected populations
- Value work in local communities
- Ensure an added value to the health systems landscape
- Focus on increased alignment and avoiding duplication
- Focus on the underserved
- Address social determinants of health and work towards health equity
- Focus on whole body health
- Honor geographic needs

Priority Areas: The Network identified priority areas to focus its efforts to influence health systems change work across Colorado.

- Access to health care for all Coloradans
- Health insurance coverage
- Medicaid coverage
- Health literacy
- Social determinants of health
- Payment reform
- Integrated care and access to behavioral health

Goals: Network members were asked to develop goals of the Network’s engagement influencing health systems change efforts.

- Increase the Network’s visibility as a trusted, credible resource
- Health alliances are seen as leaders and trusted partners
- Silos across entities will be further broken down
- Improved health outcomes
- A health system that works for everyone
**Tactics:** The Colorado Network of Health Alliances will leverage its collective voice to influence health systems change efforts by utilizing the following tactics, when applicable:

- Providing written feedback during comment period for regulatory process
- Providing written feedback during comment period for program design and implementation
- In-person representation on steering committees and advisory boards
- Attending public meetings to provide comments in person
- Letter sign-on opportunities

The Network membership has also decided that it will not engage in direct lobbying efforts or legislative work at the Capitol.

**Key Talking Points**

The following talking points can be used when health alliances are discussing the Network’s involvement in addressing health systems change:

**Colorado Network of Health Alliances and health alliance engagement:**

- Health alliances are well aligned to understand what happens on the ground in their own communities and how efforts to address health systems change impact their communities. Through the Colorado Network of Health Alliances, health alliances can leverage their collective voice to influence statewide health systems change efforts.
- Health alliances are trusted partners and leaders in their local communities. They are uniquely positioned to identify and align local efforts to reduce duplication among local and state initiatives. By engaging in conversations to address health in Colorado, the Network seeks to raise the visibility of health alliance as drivers and conveners of change to improve health across Colorado.

**Health systems change efforts:**

- Health systems change efforts must work towards achieving the quadruple aim of enhancing patience experience, improving population health, reducing costs, and improving the work life of the health care providers.
- Health systems change efforts must consider their role in addressing overall, whole-body health of Coloradans.
- The Network encourages close alignment of health systems change efforts with existing statewide infrastructure to avoid duplication and support collaboration in our local health systems.
- Meaningful patient engagement is essential to health systems change efforts.
- Given the large health disparities, both in health outcomes and health care access, which exist throughout Colorado, the Network recommends that health systems change
efforts focus on addressing the health needs of populations who historically and systemically face health disparities.

- Social determinants such as income, education, transportation, housing, and race or ethnicity, greatly influence health outcomes and contribute to health disparities. Health systems transformation efforts should acknowledge and address these powerful forces outside of the health care system.
- Rural, urban, and suburban communities have varying health needs and priorities. Health systems transformation efforts should strive for equity across the different geographic regions in Colorado.