



2021 SMP/SHIP National Conference
Virtual Meeting • Part One—April 27-29, 2021

Rhode Island Financial Alignment Initiative

Christine Smith – Program Manager

April 28, 2021

Overview of RI Office of Healthy Aging

- Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging (OHA) is the State Unit on Aging and administers the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) in Rhode Island, called The POINT.
- Other OHA administered programs:
 - SHIP
 - SMP
 - MIPPA
 - CMS Financial Alignment Initiative (FAI)
 - Benefits Enrollment Center (BEC)

Overview of RI FAI

- The FAI provides one-on-one unbiased counseling to dual beneficiaries to help them make informed decisions about options they have for receiving their Medicare and Medicaid benefits.
- Since 2015, OHA has been administering the FAI Grant.
- As of February 2021 there are 35,421 dual eligible beneficiaries in Rhode Island.

Overview of RI FAI (Cont.)

- OHA partners with United Way of Rhode Island (UWRI) to provide outreach and one-on-one counseling services to RI dual beneficiaries.
- The RI FAI is referred as the Medicare-Medicaid Enrollment (MME) Program.
- The RI FAI Counselors are referred to as the “MME Counselors”.
- The MME Program operates with two (2) full-time MME Counselors and one (1) Volunteer.

RI Plan Options for Dual Beneficiaries

- **Neighborhood INTEGRITY** – The Medicare-Medicaid Plan (MMP) managed by NHPRI, serves the entire state of Rhode Island.
- **United Health Care Dual Plan** – Special Needs Plan - “UHC-SNP” for Dual Eligible Beneficiaries
- **WellCare Imperial** – Special Needs Plan - “UHC-SNP” for Dual Eligible Beneficiaries
- **PACE** – A Medicare and Medicaid program that helps people meet their health care needs in the community instead of going to a nursing home or other care facility.

RI MMP Eligibility

- To qualify for the MMP an individual must meet **ALL** of the following criteria:
 - Live in Rhode Island
 - Be age 21 or older
 - Have Medicare Part A and Part B and be eligible for Medicare Part D
 - Have full Medicaid benefits

RI MMP Enrollment Status

***As of February 1, 2021:**

Population	NHPRI INTEGRITY	PACE	Not Enrolled	Total Eligible
Nursing Home	332		4,059	4,370
Community with Long-Term Services & Supports	1,599		2,367	3,958
Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities	1,339		1,177	2,524
Severe and Persistent Mental Illness	1,125		1,156	2,262
Community without Long-Term Services & Supports	8,176		14,466	22,307
Total:	12,571		345	

RI MMP Enrollment Waves

- **“Passive” or “Opt-Out” Monthly Enrollment Waves** – This notice informs the individual that they are eligible for the MMP. The dual beneficiary will automatically be passively enrolled into the MMP effective the date provided on the notices, unless they contact the Enrollment Help Line and request to “opt-out”.
- **“Voluntary” or “Opt-In” Monthly Enrollment Waves** – This notice informs the individual that they are eligible for the MMP and can contact the Enrollment Help Line to complete the application process.

MME Counselors Partnerships

- MME Counselors established the following partnerships to reach and assist dual beneficiaries:
 - RI SHIP Network (including SHIP Counselors & Volunteers)
 - State Agencies such as: Executive Office of Health & Human Services (OHHS)/Ombudsman & Department of Health & Human Services (DHS) (including standing office hours)
 - Benefits Enrollment Center (BEC) Counselors
 - RI Plans – Neighborhood, United Healthcare & PACE
 - Community Mental Health Organizations
 - Affordable Housing developments & Resident Service Coordinators (including standing office hours)
 - Food Pantries
 - Senior Centers

MME Trainings & Resources

- MME Counselors provides annual training to SHIP Counselors and Volunteers in efforts to expand the program throughout the state.
- Developed a [Medicare-Medicaid Comparison Chart](#) for SHIP Counselors to serve as a guidance tool when counseling dual beneficiaries.
- Developed [Outreach Materials](#) in English & Spanish to distribute in the community.
- Developed a [Referral Form](#) for partner agencies to complete when clients need assistance from a MME Counselor.
- All MME Client Contacts and Public/Media Events are recorded in ACL STARS.



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Thank you for attending!

Please feel free to contact me at
christine.smith@oha.ri.gov if you have any questions



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Michigan Financial Alignment Initiative(FAI)

Jo Murphy - Executive Director

Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP)

April 28, 2021

Overview of Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP)

- MMAP is a 501c3 non-profit
- We receive the SMP grant directly from ACL
- We receive the SHIP and MIPPA grants from the MI Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA)
- We receive the FAI from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)

Overview of MI FAI

- The FAI provides one-on-one unbiased counseling to dual beneficiaries to help them make informed decisions about options they have for receiving their Medicare and Medicaid benefits.
- In MI it is called MI Health Link
- In 2016 we received an Outreach grant
- Each year since then we have received an Options Counseling grant

Overview of MI FAI (Cont.)

- Eight of Michigan's 16 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) receive a contract to provide service in their region for the FAI - MI Health Link
- The regions vary in size from one county up to 15 counties
- All 16 AAAs contract to provide service for all other MMAP grants
- All MMAP personnel regardless of compensation status are called Team Members and are cross-trained and certified for all grant programs

MI Plan Options for Dual Beneficiaries

- **MI Health Link/FAI** - Serves part of the state/includes LTCSS and Behavioral Health
- **SNP Plans** – Serve part of the state/Acute Care only
- **D-SNP Plans** - Serve part of the state/Acute Care only
- **PACE** – Serves part of the state /includes LTCSS and Behavioral Health
- Michigan also has C and I SNPs – They also part of the state

MI Health Link Eligibility

- To qualify for MI Health Link an individual must meet **ALL** of the following criteria:
 - Live in a covered county
 - Be age 21 or older
 - Have Medicare Part A and Part B and be eligible for Medicare Part D
 - Have full Medicaid benefits

MI FAI Enrollment

- **“Passive Enrollment” or “Opt-Out”** –This notice informs the full dual beneficiary they will automatically be passively enrolled into the MI Health Link effective the date provided on the notices, unless they contact the Enrollment Help Line and request to “opt-out”. This notice is sent 60 days and 30 days prior to Passive Enrollment.
- **The SHIP 800 number is included in the Notices** – This informs the individual that they are can get questions answered by calling the MMAP 800 number.
- They can contact the Enrollment Help Line to complete the application process.

Options Counseling is Critical for the Dual Beneficiaries

- With so many options depending on where a beneficiary lives, they must have impartial assistance to select which option is best for them.
- Our Team Members receive Update trainings as needed to remain current with plan and provider changes.



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Please feel free to contact me: Jo@mmapinc.org
or on my cell 616.295.6079 if you have any questions