Over a 20-month period, the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) convened multi-agency teams from Alabama, Colorado, and Massachusetts in a learning collaborative focused on developing processes for evidence-based health policymaking with a specific focus on patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR) and comparative effectiveness research (CER).

Colorado primarily focused on creating a structure for inter-agency collaboration on the use of this research and developed a project charter to design a new inter-agency structure that could identify and apply research best practices to policy topics of interest. In addition to the three goals outlined by NASHP, Colorado chose two additional objectives:

1. Create an opportunity for all three agencies to learn from another’s best practices in research and patient engagement
2. Build capacity for internal staff and the general public to find and evaluate evidence, including PCOR and CER

**Accomplishments**

- Delivered “in-service” presentations from participating agencies/organizations to share existing evidence-based research and public-engagement best practices within each department.
- Developed staff training on evidence-based research in policymaking that combined the technical assistance provided in the learning collaborative with trainings from Oregon Health and Science University and the Pew Research Center.

**Participating Agencies and Organizations**

- Department of Health Care Policy & Financing
- Department of Public Health and the Environment
- Office of Behavioral Health, Department of Human Services
- University of Colorado School of Public Health
- University of Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute
- At least one patient or consumer representative
Challenges and Lessons Learned

Colorado’s experience illustrated the challenges that emerge when creating a new cross-agency evidence-based policymaking structure including 1) how best to and when to engage the public in the process, 2) whether to be a clearinghouse for reviews already published by groups such as Oregon’s Health Evidence Review Commission (HERC) or to produce their own reviews, 3) whether or not recommendations should be binding or voluntary, and 4) how to build in flexibility to address a variety of topics of interest across agencies. In addition, going forward, Colorado is looking at how to package training materials, resources, and databases into a simple tool for those just starting this process.

Technical Assistance Highlights

October 2016 Site Visit: Evidence-Informed Health Policy Workshop with the Center for Evidence-based Policy (CEbP)

- Discussed existing collaborative state agency structures for evidence-based health policy, and what model could work in Colorado.
- Created an opportunity to engage the Governor’s office and legislators in the learning collaborative. The Colorado team was able to connect its work with the Results First Initiative in the Governor’s Office.

Throughout the learning collaborative, state teams received individualized technical assistance through bi-monthly calls with NASHP. Colorado’s bi-monthly calls included a presentation about PCORnet and a guest speaker from HERC to discuss the process of creating a state agency evidence review program.

About the National Academy for State Health Policy:
The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) is an independent academy of state health policymakers working together to identify emerging issues, develop policy solutions, and improve state health policy and practice. As a non-profit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to helping states achieve excellence in health policy and practice, NASHP provides a forum on critical health issues across branches and agencies of state government. NASHP resources are available at: www.nashp.org.

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