



AR CoCM Community Stakeholder's Meeting

Location: Zoom

Date: May 26, 2026

Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Attendees

1. Kim Shuler	5. Amanda Lansford	9. Virna Little	13. Caitlyn Johnson
2. Miste Trent	6. Anna Strong	10. Sarah Bernes	14. Tisha Deen
3. Patty Gibson	7. Susan Ward-Jones	11. Teresa Hudson	15. Rachael Marx
4. Ann Silvis	8. Taylor Davis	12. Michael Keck	

Meeting Notes

McGehee clinic hiring and ECW readiness

- McGehee has hired a social worker & plans to start its BHI program around 6/1 pending final clearances.
- Anna will schedule ECW training for Abby and herself and arrange for assessment templates to be uploaded into ECW.

Peer sharing and ECW implementation experiences

- A Peer call on May 28 will include East Arkansas to share ECW implementation experience & templates
- Dr. Jones reported that ECW implementation has taken about a year and coding/billing remain a focus area supported by behavioral health case managers and nursing QI work.

Health economic analysis with ACHI — goals and timeline

- Teresa launched a health-economic analysis with ACHI using All Payer Claims data to assess cost changes after starting collaborative care.
- Teresa expects at least preliminary analysis findings by the grant year end on September 29.
- The analysis faces code-identification challenges because ACHI has not previously extracted this specific collaborative-care code set.

Data challenges, partnerships, and offers of support

- Participants discussed that many collaborative-care claims for Medicaid populations were adjusted off and not submitted to Medicaid, limiting directly accessible claims;
- Virna offered data-dictionary support and potential provider partners (including Mercy) to increase sample size and provide claim-level identifiers for analysis.

Mercy patient data and Medicaid opportunity

- Mercy has 3,552 collaborative care patients in Arkansas and could be a valuable partner if Medicaid covers services.
- Demonstrating dollars (financial impact) is likely the most persuasive argument to secure Medicaid coverage, though clinical outcomes are also important to stakeholders.

UAMS:

- UAMS is still enrolling patients but is resolving EHR automation and clinic-sign-in glitches affecting billing and minute-tracking.
- Preliminary outcomes (July 2022–March 2026) show a statistically significant shift from higher to lower severity on PHQ-9 and pronounced improvement on GAD-7 for patients with more than four sessions (n=283).
- Remission/discharge status is not reliably captured in the EHR and will require chart review to produce accurate remission counts.

PTSD working group/SPIRIT Study

- Kim asked about SPIRIT participation and Dr. Susan Ward-Jones reported positive patient improvements and that screening became a routine part of intake after initial adoption challenges.
- Forming a PTSD working group was proposed with John Fortney engaged as a consultant, to plan screening, data-sharing, and project design while ensuring legal/IRB protections.

National presentations, national resource compilation, and value-based care

- Patty Gibson assembled a resource pack of recent publications, billing guidance, and outcome literature on collaborative care for the group to use.
- Patty Gibson presented national updates and resources from recent conferences including AMA and CFHA materials relevant to collaborative care implementation.
- The AMA Steps Forward toolkit and updated compendium are recommended resources with embedded links and videos for implementing integrated behavioral health.
- Value-based care supports integrated behavioral health most readily when payers hold long-term

CFHA content, SUD programs, and UC Davis data

- CFHA hosted virtual presentations that detailed the psychiatric consultant role and showcased COCM use in SUD programs that added peers to care teams.
- UC Davis presented financial analyses showing COCM patients cost less and produced a positive return on investment for their hospital system after implementation.
- Integrated care is intended to complement, not replace, specialty mental health services; some patients still require higher levels of care.

Conference logistics and available recordings

- The group confirmed that the CFHA annual conference dates and locations (October 8–10 in St. Louis) and discussed local representation from Arkansas.
- ABHIN maintains conference recordings from their annual BHI Conferences on their website and the 2026 Conference is now uploaded
- The Meadows Institute has four new CoCM training modules (billing, primary care, psych consultants, behavioral health care managers) and are now available online, interactive, and offer free CEU/CME.

Zero to Three Financing and Policy Project

- Anna Strong reported that an AR team (including the state DHS) was accepted to the Zero to Three Financing and Policy Project and will be working on preventive mental health care as part of a value-based model for kids,
- They've also started a conversation with DHS about a pediatric PCMH that would include mental health care in primary care

Action Items

- McGehee will set up an appointment with the ECW trainer to train Abby and herself.
- ACHI will run the collaborative-care claims analysis using All Payer Claims data with Teresa's team.
- ACHI (Joe Thompson/analytic team) will prioritize identifying the specific code set needed for the Medicaid-focused analysis to allow timely extraction and reporting.
- Virna Little/Concert will provide data-dictionary support and offer connections to other organizations with collaborative-care claim data if Teresa requests it.
- Teresa Hudson will check in with ACHI this week to confirm progress and the number of unique individuals identified for the cohort.
- Tisha Deen will follow up with the group on refined billing automation status after the system updates are expected at the end of the week.
- Virna Little will share clinical outcomes and lessons from redoing the SPIRIT trial with trauma (PCL findings) and information about potential funding opportunities.
- Tisha Deen will perform chart reviews to determine discharge-in-remission counts and resolve EHR gaps for remission/discharge coding.
- Teresa Hudson will convene a PTSD working group with John Fortney and other participants to plan screening, data-sharing, and project design.

Important Dates

- ▶ June 19th @ 12:00: [ABHIN's CoCM Office Hours](#)
- ▶ October 8-10, 2026: CFHA 2026: [Integrated Care Conference, St. Louis, MO](#)

CoCM Resources

- ▶ [ABHIN CoCM Training & Resource webpage](#)
- ▶ [ABHIN CoCM Monthly Office Hours](#)
- ▶ [AIMS Center: Collaborative Care Monthly Finance Office Hours](#)
- ▶ [AIMS Center: Collaborative Care Monthly Implementation Office Hours](#)
- ▶ [AIMS Center's BHCM Learning Community](#)
- ▶ [AMA Toolkit](#)
- ▶ [Meadows Collaborative Care Training Hub](#)
- ▶ [ABHIN's 4th Annual BHI Conference](#)