

BRIDGE BEYOND APPLAUDS WORK TO SECURE MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR STREET MEDICINE

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Press Contact:

Meera Garg- Advocacy@bridgebeyond.org

Shirley Dong- Advocacy@bridgebeyond.org

Mei Smyers- Vicechair@bridgebeyond.org

Vinh Dang- Externalaffairs@bridgebeyond.org

Pittsburgh, PA- Bridge Beyond is excited to share that Street Medicine is now a coverable service under Medicaid effective October 1st, 2023. Thanks to efforts and support from the Street Medicine Institute, Pennsylvania State Representative Dan Frankel, his staff, and Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Secretary Dr. Val Arkoosh.

Bridge Beyond is proud to have contributed to these efforts by bringing the importance of street medicine to Representative Dan Frankel's team. The new Point of Service Code (POS 27) was set into effect by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). As established by CMS, POS 27, "Outreach Site/Street," describes a "non-permanent location on the street or found environment, not described by any other POS code, where health professionals provide preventive, screening, diagnostic, and/or treatment services to unsheltered homeless individuals." While these services are now reimbursable, it is important to note that Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) can choose not to implement POS27 until January 2nd, 2024. It is imperative that we continue to ensure that these guidelines are followed at every level of care.

In addition, we hope that others across the country will actively take part in advocacy efforts to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals experiencing homelessness. Bridge Beyond will continue to implement changes to ensure that health accessibility and equity for underserved communities are at the forefront of our work. In particular, we hope to expand Presumptive Eligibility (PE) for temporary Medical Assistance coverage for individuals experiencing homelessness who are admitted to hospitals. PE currently is only available to pregnant women, children, parents/caretakers, and foster children.

Bridge Beyond fully believes that POS 27 is a step in the right direction in improving access to care to individuals experiencing homelessness. While more work still needs to be done, we also want to acknowledge the work by Bridge Beyond's Advocacy team led by Meera Garg, Shirley Dong and supported by Devika Diwan, Hari Acharya, and Vinh Dang. Their work in speaking to Pennsylvania State Representatives about the importance of Street Medicine and a comprehensive change in legislation to support individuals experiencing homelessness was crucial to this new code. In addition, we'd also like to thank Dr. Jim Withers and Brett Feldman from the Street Medicine Institute for their guidance and support in this work.

To read the official statement from the PA Department of Human Services visit this [link](#).

To learn more about the Street Medicine Institute visit this [link](#).

To support Bridge Beyond visit us [here](#).