# Looking Forward: HCBS Quality Measures Alignment and HCBS CAHPS® Survey

## Melanie Brown, PhD, Technical Director

Division of Community Systems Transformation, Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



# **HCBS Quality Framework**

## Programmatic aims ...



## achieved by ...



## will lead to ...

Ensure the safety and well-being of people receiving

Promote highquality and accessible HCBS

Promote valuebased care and services for people receiving HCBS Measuring quality and outcomes

Analyzing data

Tracking and trending data

Internally and publicly reporting on quality and outcomes

Detecting and responding to individual and system-level problems

Promoting improvements in quality and outcomes

Improved experience of care

Greater independence, health, well-being, self-determination, and community inclusion

More costeffective and appropriate care and services

# **CMS HCBS Quality Strategy Elements**

- Promote development and use of standardized, validated, and meaningful quality measures
- 2. Align, coordinate, and address gaps in federal and state measurement, reporting, and monitoring requirements, activities, and systems
- 3. Develop, implement, and support use and availability of a comprehensive set of quality improvement, quality assurance, and technical assistance strategies, activities, and tools
- 4. Improve oversight and enforcement, address gaps in regulations and oversight/enforcement, and better support states to comply with federal regulations, policies, and guidance
- 5. Support development, testing, and implementation of value-based purchasing and alternative payment models

## **HCBS CAHPS Survey**

#### **Focuses on the Person**

Assesses whether services are person-centered, prioritize what is important to participants, if participants can direct and control their own plan, and how services are delivered

# Includes Reliable and Valid Survey Measures

Developed with input from a range of stakeholders and tested through the CMS Testing Experience and Functional Tools (TEFT) Demonstration

### **Applies across Delivery Systems**

Used in both fee-for-service and managed care programs, allowing for comparison of all programs operating within a state

## **Applies across Populations**

Target populations include older adults and persons with physical disabilities, intellectual or developmental disabilities, acquired brain injury, or mental health or substance use disorders

# Includes the Option for Telephone or In-Person

Fielded by interviews conducted either over the phone or in-person, several states also using computerassisted telephone interviewing (CATI)

#### **Asks about 69 Core Items**

Contains a maximum of 69 core items, depending on the types of services used



# **Key Features of HCBS CAHPS Survey**

- Person-centered
- 2. Cross-disability
- 3. Development aligned with CAHPS
- 4. Survey sponsor can determine frequency of use
- HCBS CAHPS is publicly available for voluntary use in HCBS programs as part of quality assurance and improvement activities and public reporting
- 6. Applicable in both fee-for-service and managed long-term services and supports environments
- 7. CMS provides technical assistance to support all users

## **Sample Design**

- Unit of Analysis: the unit for which survey results (scores) will be produced
- Accountable Entity: the operating entity responsible for managing and overseeing a specific HCBS program within a given state
- Unit of analysis can vary
  - State Medicaid agencies
  - County or other non-state governmental entities
  - Managed care plans under managed long-term services and supports programs

# **Other Important Considerations**

- Nineteen composite measures derived from HCBS CAHPS are endorsed by a Consensus-Based Entity, consisting of:
  - Seven composite measures
  - Three global ratings
  - Three recommendation measures
  - Six single-item measures (On unmet needs and physical safety)
- AHRQ, along with its contractor Westat, manages the HCBS CAHPS
   Database, which offers free access to aggregated results for analysis and use
- The Lewin Group provides technical assistance to states, managed care plans, and groups using or interested in implementing the HCBS CAHPS Survey