

Wisconsin Association of Health Plans

The Voice of Wisconsin's Community-Based Health Plans

Data Issue Brief **12/12/16**

Members of the Group Insurance Board (GIB) November 30 raised questions about the use of data in Department of Employee Trust Fund (DETF) efforts to control costs and promote quality for the State Group Health Program. These questions were expressed as the GIB considers broad program changes to the State Group Health Program. This fact sheet is intended to provide background information about DETF's current collection and use of data.

- DETF today creates data specifications and collects data annually from health plans in four areas:
 1. Financial cost and utilization data (State, Local, Active, Annuitant, Graduate Assistant);
 2. Group Utilization Reporting;
 3. Disease Management Reporting;
 4. Annual wellness incentive participation and aggregate health assessment data;
- The data DETF collects is sufficient to make informed decisions about benefit design, and to understand member utilization, provider utilization, and illness burden
- DETF currently lacks the analytical capability to make effective use of the collected data but has taken a necessary step to fix that problem by contracting with a new data warehouse, Truven Analytics
- Community-based health plans support this DETF initiative to better understand and use data collected from health plans
- DETF use of the data warehouse and a new emphasis on industry standard specifications in data collection should help DETF collect and process more standardized data sets and build a greater understanding of program (and population) needs
- This approach will help DETF build upon a track record of successfully controlling program costs
- The annual bid-negotiate process has allowed for DETF to manage premium increases and collect necessary data; health plan data submissions and rate development today are certified by participating health plan actuaries ensuring the validity of plan bids
- This process has saved the state \$283 million over nine years and produced a premium trend rate for the State Program of 3.7%, much lower than national premium trends

Based on the recently released DETF staff time line, the Data Warehouse vendor is not expected to begin to produce data until the fourth quarter of 2017. This suggests that significant changes to the State Group Health Program such as self-funding and defined regionalization are at best premature and ill-advised.