



NQP PPS Symposium Presentation: Contracting with Behavioral Health Providers and Tier 1 CBO's – Tips, Tricks and Hacks

On February 12, 2019 the Nassau Queens PPS Community Engagement Team conducted a workshop at the annual DSRIP PPS Symposium entitled: “Contracting with Behavioral Health Providers and Tier 1 CBO’s: *Tips, Tricks and Hacks*. The workshop was presented by the NQP Director of Behavioral Health John Javis, the Project Manager for Community Engagement Alyse LaRue, and Rev. Patrick O’Connor, who represents the First Presbyterian Church and the First Jamaica Community Urban Development Corporation.

One of the major challenges of DSRIP statewide has been the struggle to flow sufficient funds to community based organizations and behavioral health providers, and to do so in a timely manner. The goal of the workshop was to share how NQP was able to successfully contract with 23 Tier 1 CBO’s in four months and 8 Behavioral Health providers in one month’s time.

The NQP Community Engagement Team outlined some of its keys for success including:

1. Offer simple contracts to providers, especially Tier 1 CBOs, so they do not need to expend a significant amount of financial resources on legal fees.
2. Provide a sufficient level of funding to the organizations to insure that the cost to actually provide the service does not exceed the contract funding.
3. Develop simple and clear deliverables and a simplified reporting structure.

Rev. O’Connor shared his perspective on CBOs starting to partner with healthcare providers. One issue of note is that CBO’s tend to provide individuals with concrete services such as food or housing without asking questions about health insurance status or who the client’s primary care physician is. However, because the CBO’s do have a trusted relationship with their clients, they can encourage and assist these individuals to avail themselves of health benefits and corresponding healthcare services.