Executive Summary

The second VBCDC meeting of 2021 was held virtually on September 24th via Zoom, with more than 50 health plan and patient advocacy organization representatives participating. Prior to the meeting, stakeholders were tasked with completing a self-assessment worksheet to document current challenges and opportunities to achieving high-quality, cost-effective care from each of their perspectives.

Case studies and payer/advocacy organization collaborative efforts were presented by the Multiple Sclerosis Association of America (MSAA), National Eczema Association (NEA), Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF) and BCS Financial, followed by group discussion. In addition, participants were polled on their current progress in terms of working collaboratively with advocacy organizations or payers:

*Have you had any recent successes in collaborating with payers and/or patient advocacy groups since we last met? (N=24)*

- Olivia Dieni, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation: “We had the opportunity to host a webinar on CF with BCS Financial for BCBS plans.”
- Kelly Maynard, Little Hercules Foundation: “We are members of the Ohio Association of Health Plans and will be attending their annual convention as a sponsor next week.”
- Ashley Clark, SCDA: “As a member organization, we have over 53 community-based organizations across the US that focus on advocacy efforts. We also have a national CHW training program with an advocacy model.”
- Jeff Blake, Hemophilia Alliance: “We’ve worked with payers and our member hemophilia treatment centers (HCT) on payer contracts so the HCT pharmacies can dispense bleeding disorder medication to patients.”

Learnings and recommendations resulting from a mock payer presentation—conducted ahead of the meeting by the Little Hercules Foundation—were reviewed. An informational presentation on social determinants of health (SDOH) and health equity in chronic diseases rounded out the didactic content before a series of breakout sessions were used to elicit specific feedback and recommendations prior to the meeting’s closing.