FIRST MIT HACKING MEDICINE INSTITUTE HACKATHON FOR MEDICAID

In 2011 MIT launched the nonprofit Hacking Medicine Institute, dedicated to innovating solutions to healthcare problems. According to their initial news release, Hacking Medicine is, "dedicated to convening leading healthcare institutions, payors and companies to decide on policies and techniques for measuring efficacy for digital health interventions." A main activity for this organization is sponsoring hackathons. Hacking Medicine defines hackathon as, "an event, often spanning a period of days, in which a diverse group of individuals (clinicians, entrepreneurs, engineers, programmers) come together to solve a complex problem, usually under a general theme."

The first MIT Hacking Medicine Institute Hackathon for Medicaid occurred in Colorado Springs on October 23-24, 2015, sponsored by Pikes Peak Community Health Partnership (PPCHP), the current manager of the Colorado Medicaid Regional Coordinated Care Organization covering El Paso, Park, Teller, and Elbert counties. Participants in the hackathon addressed a wide variety of problem areas presented to them by the Pikes Peak Community Health Partnership. These problems included areas such as healthcare access, rural healthcare and transportation needed to receive healthcare. Innovation teams were chosen by having participants choose the topic that interested them most. The teams were given 24 hours to come up with a business proposal to pitch to the judges and all of the other participants and were eligible to be awarded first or second place as judged by a panel of 4 judges. A third award came from a popular vote.

Julia Duffer (PPCHP), Cory Arcarese (Value Care Health Clinic), Terri Anderson (House Bill 1451/Collaborative Management Program, Joint Initiatives for Youth & Families), and Lynne VanArsdale (leader of the Business Alliance Healthcare Sector Team) made up the first place team. Their proposal addressed the difficulty that Medicaid primary care providers face in engaging specialty care for their patients. The team now is tasked with formulating a detailed proposal including the money needed to execute a solution. Community Health Partnership will review the proposal and work with the team to move the project forward.