

UPDATE for the Community



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A few weeks ago, Seattle and the nation were transfixed by a [young man's 24 hour standoff in a downtown Seattle tree](#). This is an opportunity for us to reflect on the state of mental health services in Washington, and figure out how we can do better. [One study](#), which looked at prevalence of mental illness and access to care, ranks Washington state 48th in the nation in terms of the how well we serve those with mental illness. As this young man's story illustrates, there is a very real human cost to allowing people with mental illness to fall between the cracks. [Read more from our executive director.](#)

ALLIANCE UPDATES

- [New Common Measure Set measures on behavioral health approved](#)
- [Comparing Core Quality Measures Collaborative to Washington's Common Measure Set](#)
- [We're hiring!](#)

New Common Measure Set measures on behavioral health approved

The governor-appointed Performance Measurement Coordinating Committee (PMCC) on March 25, 2016 approved two new behavioral health measures to be added to the Washington State Common Measure Set. *Mental Health Service Penetration (Broad Version)* and *Substance Use Disorder Treatment Penetration* will help policymakers and providers better understand how many people who need care are receiving the necessary treatment. [Read more about the PMCC.](#)

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Comparing Core Quality Measures Collaborative to Washington's Common Measure Set

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [recently announced a new agreement](#) to standardize measures of health care quality. We applaud this announcement. The more organizations that can align around a common set of quality measures, the clearer the market signal will be regarding purchaser and payer expectations for performance on key

UPCOMING EVENTS

CPIN webinar: Value Based Purchasing - The Role of the Common Measure Set and the Campaign to Engage Consumers
May 11, 2016, 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.

[Register for webinar](#)

Learn how the Common Measure Set is being used in value-based purchasing contracts and how providers can engage patients in conversations about value. The Alliance's own Susie Dade and John Gallagher will be presenting. The Clinical Performance Improvement Network is an educational program designed to assist physician practices' efforts on quality improvement. *This activity has been approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™.*

LEARN MORE

Join Us

Are you interested in learning more about membership in the Alliance? [Learn more about the value of Alliance membership.](#)

Choosing Wisely

Choosing Wisely is a campaign designed to provide easy-to-understand guides for getting better, safer, more effective care. It is a partnership between the

indicators. [Learn more how Core Quality Collaborative measures compare to Washington's Common Measure Set.](#)

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We're hiring!

Do you know someone who wants to join with like-minded individuals and health care industry leaders to successfully transform the health care system in Washington state? We have two exciting opportunities to join our team: **Finance and Administration Manager** and **Senior Health Data Analyst**. [Learn more about Alliance careers on our website.](#)

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ON THE BLOG

[Colorectal cancer awareness and action](#)

[Measuring the quality of hospital care in Washington state](#)

[Promoting the value of patient experience](#)

[Choosing Wisely Action Manual: Your guide to reducing low-value care](#)

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Alliance, The American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM), the Washington State Medical Association and others. [Learn more.](#)

Visit the Community Checkup website

The Community Checkup website helps consumers make informed choices by giving them access to a robust and accessible supply of data and resources. [Learn more.](#)

NEW! Follow the Alliance on Facebook

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Follow the Alliance on Twitter

We invite you to follow the Alliance on Twitter @WAHealthCheckup.

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The Washington Health Alliance brings together those who give, get and pay for health care to create a high-quality, affordable system for the people of Washington state.