

# UPDATE for the Community



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Variation in health care is a common theme in the Alliance's work. The Community Checkup report released last December highlights how this variation is found across geographies and among medical groups, clinics and hospitals. Now a new report that the Alliance is preparing to release next week illustrates that disparities in care are a significant problem in Washington.

Using Medicaid data, the Alliance was able to look at how care is delivered to people based on their race, ethnicity and language (REL). (Note: Unfortunately, REL data is not readily available for the commercially insured population.) The results are cause for concern and a call to action. [Read more from our executive director.](#)

## ALLIANCE UPDATES

- [The Alliance and Qualis holding event to discuss health equity in Washington State on Feb. 14](#)
- [Alliance laying the groundwork for fourth Patient Experience Survey](#)
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### **The Alliance and Qualis holding event to discuss health equity in Washington State on Feb. 14**

The Washington Health Alliance and Qualis Health invite medical directors and health quality leaders to join in a discussion of the results from the Alliance's fourth report on Disparities in Care. A panel of local health leaders will share information about innovative strategies they are using to address disparities in their own organizations. Questions and discussion from the audience will be encouraged. This event is part of the Alliance's continuing effort to identify and address the issue of health care disparities in our state.

The event will be held on February 14, 2017, 9:00–11:00 AM at

## 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 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.](#)

### **Follow the Alliance on Facebook**

We invite you to follow the Alliance on [Facebook](#).

### **Follow the Alliance on Twitter**

We invite you to follow the Alliance on Twitter [@WAHealthCheckup](#).

### **Follow the Alliance on LinkedIn**

We invite you to follow the Alliance on our [LinkedIn company page](#).

***The Washington Health Alliance***

Qualis Health. **Space is limited, so be sure to RSVP to Laurie Kavanagh at [lkavanagh@wahealthalliance.org](mailto:lkavanagh@wahealthalliance.org).**

### **Alliance laying the groundwork for fourth Patient Experience Survey**

The Washington Health Alliance is gearing up to conduct its fourth patient experience survey later in 2017. The initiative, called *Your Voice Matters*, is intended to provide information that sheds light on patients' experience with their primary health care providers. The survey, which will be mailed to hundreds of thousands of adults in Washington during September and October, will ask patients to report their experiences with their primary health care provider and the provider's office staff over the last twelve months. This year, for the first time, the survey will cover primary care clinics and medical groups of four or more providers *in all counties of the state*. In Washington, this includes over 500 such health care organizations.

The Alliance patient experience survey is based on the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) Clinician & Group Survey, also known as the CG-CAHPS Survey. The CG-CAHPS Survey is endorsed by the National Quality Forum. The Alliance intends to publicly report results during the first quarter of 2018. Patient experience has become a top priority of health care industry leaders as well as among public and private employers and union trusts that purchase health care on behalf of their employees and members. Experience of care matters tremendously to patients and families and is widely recognized as a core dimension of health care quality and value. For more information, please contact Susie Dade at the Washington Health Alliance: [sdade@wahealthalliance.org](mailto:sdade@wahealthalliance.org).

### **Bree Collaborative requests public comment on Recommendations on Integrating Behavioral Health into Primary Care**

Your feedback is requested on the Bree Collaborative's latest draft report and recommendations for [Behavioral Health Integration](#). Mental illness and substance use disorders, together called behavioral health, are common and often go untreated due to stigma, lack of screening, and lack of access to appropriate care. Integrating behavioral health care into primary care, and primary care into behavioral health care has been proposed as a solution, but integration has been variable and inconsistent. The Bree Collaborative elected to address this topic and convened a workgroup to develop recommendations focusing on common elements across different integrated models. Please complete all comments regarding the report using this link to [SurveyMonkey](#). Comments must be received by **5pm on Friday, February 24th**.

The Behavioral Health Integration workgroup reviews and uses public comments to develop the report submitted to the Bree Collaborative for adoption. The final report is submitted to the [Washington State Health Care Authority](#) (HCA). For more information or to give additional feedback, please contact Ginny Weir, Program Director of the Bree Collaborative at [GWeir@qualityhealth.org](mailto:GWeir@qualityhealth.org) or (206) 204-7377 or visit [www.breecollaborative.org](http://www.breecollaborative.org).

### **We're hiring!**

Do you know someone who wants to join with like-minded

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

individuals and health care industry leaders to successfully transform the health care system in Washington state? We have an exciting opportunity to join our team: **Senior Health Data Analyst**. [Learn more about Alliance careers on our website.](#)  
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### **Joining the Alliance**

Do you know someone who would like to learn more about membership in the Alliance? Our members can be the best ambassadors for work, and we have an online tool to help you talk about the value of Alliance membership. [Learn more at our Join Us website.](#)

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## **ON THE BLOG**

[Looking ahead in 2017](#)

[Alliance and Bree Collaborative issue call to action to fight opioid misuse](#)

[Alliance launches 2016 Community Checkup report](#)

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