

# UPDATE for the Community



## LEARN MORE

### Thoughts on Progress, Doing and Being a Nuisance

#### *A farewell message by Susie Dade, Deputy Director, Washington Health Alliance*

I have spent about 15 years and more than 30,000 hours in service to the Washington Health Alliance. This has been my second home since arriving on the Alliance's doorstep, and a very good home it has been. I have found the Alliance to be a place that is defined by mission, purpose, innovation, and commitment. I sincerely thank Dr. Hugh Straley for originally recruiting me, and Margaret Stanley and Lance Heineccius for ultimately inviting me to join the team. This has been the job of a lifetime and it has been my great honor to serve.

The Alliance's aim: to improve health and health care in Washington state by working together instead of in separate silos, and by generating *and using* credible information to drive collective action.

Easy to say, but hard to do.

I suppose it's not surprising that over the years, there have been a few dark and dreary Seattle days when I have gotten stuck, wondering what we are accomplishing. After all, we are trying to change and improve a very complex industry, a quagmire really. But when I pause and reflect, I see clearly the distance we've traveled together at the Alliance. Please, take a few moments and join me in a brief retrospective and thoughts for the future.

[Read Susie's full letter HERE](#)

### On Susie's Departure by Nancy Giunto

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

When Susie Dade asked me whether she could write the letter to the membership for the April edition of News from the Alliance, she thought she would have the last word. Little did she know that I also planned to pay tribute to her in the same issue!

Susie and I have worked very closely together for the past five and a half years. I have the utmost respect for her, for her expertise and passion, of course, but also for her unwavering dedication to making things better and improving the health care system. She speaks the truth, regardless of how hard it is to hear it, and sometimes it can be pretty hard, if you know Susie as I do. It is always challenging to be a presenter with Susie in the audience. As Tim Lieb, President of Regence BlueShield, remarked at a recent Alliance Board of Directors' meeting, "we live in mortal fear of the one penetrating question from Susie that will sum up the issue and reveal the weakness of the argument."

[Read Nancy's full letter HERE](#)

---

## ALLIANCE UPDATES

- [Karen Johnson Joins the Alliance as Director of Performance Improvement and Innovation](#)
- [Last Week's All-Alliance Webinar Meeting](#)
- [Community Checkup Release](#)
- [The Alliance Welcomes New Members!](#)
- [Joining the Alliance](#)



### **Karen Johnson Joins the Alliance as Director of Performance Improvement and Innovation**

Please join us in welcoming Karen Johnson, the newest member of the Alliance team.

While we had hoped Karen would begin her new role in the office with the rest of us, she is joining us remotely given the current conditions and office restrictions. Karen has jumped in and is actively involved with the team across many important initiatives.

Karen comes to the Alliance as an accomplished leader with experience that spans traditional health care boundaries having worked with employers, health plans, providers, and health systems over her 30+ year career. Understanding the unique perspective of these different stakeholders allows her to serve as a bridge-builder and change agent. Karen believes in the power of "coloring outside the lines and forging unexpected alliances with a singular mission in mind – to make health care work better for more people at a cost they can afford.

[Read more about Karen HERE](#)

### **Last Week's All-Alliance Webinar Meeting**

Last week's All-Alliance webinar, "**Leadership in a Time of Chaos,**"

## All-Alliance Meeting

moderated by Executive Director Nancy Giunto, featured a panel discussion with Peter Adler, CEO of Molina Healthcare, Dr. Jay Cook, Chief Medical Officer at Providence Regional Medical Center in Everett, and Rob Smith, Editor-in Chief of Seattle Business magazine. The discussion included a look at both the short and long-term effects of COVID-19, including audience questions such as:

- How have relaxed regulations changed your thinking about the marketplace?
- What are some of the opportunities that are now available that didn't exist or weren't as prevalent before?
- As people seek to access care that they put off during this time, what will the impact be on non-emergent health care needs in the aftermath?
- How will behavioral health services be affected?
- How might this experience reduce low-value or wasteful health care?
- What kind of system-wide changes do you think might now be possible?

The opportunity to attend All-Alliance meetings is one benefit of membership in the Washington Health Alliance. For information on becoming a member, [click here](#).

Our previously-scheduled program, "**Bending the Pharmaceutical Cost Curve**," featuring Dr. James Robinson from University of California, Berkeley, will be held at a later date. Stay tuned for those details.



### Community Checkup Release

We are on schedule to release the Alliance's 13th Community Checkup report later this month for claims data from January 1 to December 31, 2018, bringing together results for 1,978 clinics, 376 medical groups, 123 hospitals, 16 health plans, 39 counties, and 9 Accountable Communities of Health on more than 110 performance measures.

"The Washington Health Alliance's Community Checkup not only gives Washington state unvarnished information about the health care delivery system, it puts that information into the hands of the people getting the care, people giving the care, people paying for the care, and the people making decisions about health care policy. It's not just an amazing resource, it is foundational to informing the lasting and significant improvements that we need." Dr. Marty Makary, Author, "*The Price We Pay: What Broke American Health Care and How to Fix It*," and Surgical Oncologist at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

### The Alliance Welcomes New Members!

The mission of Global to Local or G2L, is to



advance health equity and improve health in communities across the country through application of best practices from around the world. G2L develops programs and interventions to improve health, lower the cost of care, and empower underserved communities across the U.S. Disparities exist both in rural and urban spaces and the communities affected by health disparities are diverse, including women, people of color, people experiencing poverty, immigrants, and refugees. G2L's objective is to adapt programs on a local level, share their learnings, and replicate their work across organizations and clinics nationwide. In 2010, G2L launched the first of several pilot programs designed to meet the unique needs of communities in SeaTac and Tukwila with the goal of improving the health outcomes of those residents.



Heron Therapeutics seeks to improve the lives of patients by developing novel, best-in-class treatments to address some of the most important unmet patient needs. It aims to develop patient-focused solutions by applying innovative science and technologies with well-known pharmacology, making their products: more effective than other pharmaceutical agents in the same class; safer or better tolerated than other pharmaceutical agents in the same class; better able to address the multiple pathways of a disease or disorder through new mechanisms of action and delivery; and potentially able to reduce the dependence on other classes of drugs with more harmful side effects, such as opioids. Its drug currently in development, HTX-011, is designed to address postoperative pain and inflammation in a single administration at the surgical site, and has the potential to reduce opiate prescriptions.



Landmark Health and its affiliated medical groups partner with health plans and delivery systems to bring patient-centric, in-home care to complex and chronically ill populations, providing access to care 24/7 to patients and their families. The company bears risk for more than 100,000 lives across 14 states and 46 metropolitan communities. In Washington, it serves Spokane and the Puget Sound region. Its value-based model relies on fully employed, local multidisciplinary care teams to help drive long-term outcomes for patients by bringing medical, behavioral, social and palliative care to individuals, where they reside and when they need it.



Since 1993, Vimley Benefit Solutions, a certified women-owned business located in Mukilteo, has been serving as a world-class benefits technology and third party administration company for fully-insured and self-insured small to mid-sized businesses. Its mission is to simplify the complexities of workforce and benefits administration and provide innovative solutions and services that simplify the entire benefits experience, create greater efficiencies, and expand market possibilities, in order to help their partners address the cost and quality challenges in today's healthcare ecosystem. Their clients include health plans, professional employer organizations,

general agents, third-party administrators and ancillary carriers, Taft Hartley and public sector trusts, unions, municipality and government plans, voluntary employees beneficiary associations, and individual employers.

[Learn more about our new members here.](#)

### **Joining the Alliance**

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

[Back to top ^](#)

---