

# UPDATE for the Community



## February 2021: Alliance Partners with Business Leaders to Support Vaccine Acceleration Efforts

### LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is clear that approving vaccines is just the start of a very complicated process to get them administered. In our state as in many others, vaccine supplies are short, logistics are unpredictable, and getting vaccines administered to people continues to be a challenge.

(Read the full letter [HERE](#).)

### ALLIANCE UPDATES

- [Purchasers Unify to Support Primary Care Transformation in Washington State](#)
- [Hundreds Attend Alliance and Bree Webinar on Social Determinants of Health](#)
- [How Can Hospitals Advance Equity?](#)
- [The Alliance Welcomes New Members Hello Heart and Wellth](#)



#### [Purchasers Unify to Support Primary Care Transformation in Washington State](#)

A recent [study](#) shows patients who receive primary care receive significantly more high-value care and slightly more low-value care, but reported significantly better health care access and experience than those who did not. Using data from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey over a 12-year period, the study found those with primary care more frequently had cancer screenings, flu vaccines, and high blood pressure checks, while those without missed substantial health benefits, such as cancer screenings, diagnostic and preventive testing, diabetes care, and counseling.

### LEARN MORE

#### Join Us

To find out about the benefits of joining the Alliance, email Theresa Lampkin Tamura, Director of Membership and Business Engagement, at [ttamura@wahealthalliance.org](mailto:ttamura@wahealthalliance.org).

#### 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.](#)

#### We invite you to follow the Alliance

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- on LinkedIn
- on Twitter  
[@WAHealthCheckup](#)

*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.*

It is the value of primary care and the critical role it plays in keeping people healthy that motivated the Alliance and the Purchaser Business Group on Health, formerly Pacific Business Group on Health (PBGH), to express support for the state's current efforts to transform the delivery of primary care. In a letter to the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) last week, the purchasers encouraged providers and health plans to "work together with those of us paying for health care services to generate new payment models that increase the proportion of health care spending on primary care." Signers to the letter collectively represent more than 350,000 individuals in Washington state, including the Association of Washington Cities, King County, Puget Sound Energy, SEIU 775 Benefits Group, and the Washington Health Benefit Exchange.

The purchaser letter followed the signing of a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) last fall between insurance plans, the HCA, Governor Jay Inslee's office, and the Washington State Medical Association to support the HCA's [Multi-Payer Primary Care Transformation Model](#). Amerigroup Washington, Community Health Plan of Washington, Coordinated Care, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington, Molina Healthcare, Premera Blue Cross, Regence BlueShield, and UnitedHealthcare have all agreed to the MOU.

The Alliance, PBGH, and the purchasers who signed on to the letter discussed their priorities and areas of collaboration in a meeting last week with the HCA and health plan leaders, including:

- data integration and aggregation;
- primary care capacity;
- attribution of primary care providers to patients;
- telehealth;
- behavioral health; and
- care coordination for complex patients.

Read the letter purchasers submitted to the HCA [here](#).



### **Hundreds Attend Alliance and Bree Webinar on Social Determinants of Health**

Hundreds of participants joined us on January 21<sup>st</sup> for the first of our year-long "Framework for Action" series presented by the Alliance and Bree Collaborative to increase the adoption of value-based purchasing across the state. You can read the blog post, see the slide presentations, or watch the webinar [here](#).

Don't forget to save the date for our upcoming webinars scheduled for:

- April 15<sup>th</sup> on Building Patient-Centric and Administratively Efficient Interoperable Data Systems;
- July 15<sup>th</sup> on Coordinating Multi-Payer Strategies to Align Quality Measurement; and
- October 21<sup>st</sup> on Implementing Multi-Payer Strategies to Align Provider Payment.

Stay tuned for more information coming soon!



## How Can Hospitals Advance Equity?

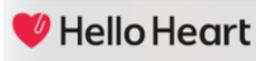
One of the key elements of health care reform is to engage The Human Rights Campaign Foundation (HRCF) improves the lives of LGBTQ people by working to increase understanding and encouraging the adoption of LGBTQ-inclusive policies and practices. HRCF builds support for LGBTQ people among families and friends, co-workers and employers, pastors and parishioners, doctors and teachers, neighbors, and the general public with outreach and educational programs.

You can join HRCF's webinar "Treating injustice: The Role of Hospitals in Advancing Equity" on February 4th at 10 am PST. Speakers include:

- Alphonso David, President, Human Rights Campaign;
- Wright L. Lassiter, III, President and CEO, Henry Ford Health System; and
- Bruce Siegel, MD, MPH, President and CEO, America's Essential Hospitals.

To register click [here](#).

## The Alliance Welcomes New Members Hello Heart and Wellth



**Hello Heart** empowers people to understand and improve their heart health using mobile technology. Hello Heart is a clinically-based smartphone solution for patients to track, understand and improve their chronic conditions. Users are able to build healthy tracking habits and improve their health in real time with an easy-to-use smartphone application. Their solution empowers users to identify health risks in time and potentially save lives. Founded in 2013, they have cultivated a transparent, collaborative and fun company culture with a strong, go-getter team, driven to change the way patients address their health.



**Wellth** is a care plan adherence solution that uses mobile experiences, AI software and behavioral economics principles to help people form healthy habits. Leaders in this discipline have provided decades of research to demonstrate how to predict irrational behaviors. Wellth's founders used the same principles to establish a new way of forming new habits for healthier living and chose to focus on those who are often left behind and struggle the most: people with chronic medical conditions, people challenged by income insecurity, and people with the most forces pulling them away from forming healthy habits.

[Learn more about Hello Heart and Wellth here.](#)

## Joining the Alliance

To find out about the benefits of joining the Alliance, email Theresa Lampkin Tamura, Director of Membership and Business Engagement, at [ttamura@wahealthalliance.org](mailto:ttamura@wahealthalliance.org).

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