

# UPDATE for the Community



## June 2021: Change Happens at the Speed of Trust

### LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I'm pleased to share with you some great news. The Washington Health Alliance was recently recognized as a national leader by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Foundation.

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

### 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).

### ALLIANCE UPDATES

- [Improving Primary Care in Washington State Webinar](#)
- [Karen Johnson at Cambia Grove's \*Optimizing Incentives Summit\* on June 8-9](#)
- [Alliance Team Members Join Health Care Cost Transparency Board Data Issues Committee](#)
- [Alliance Moves Forward on Driving Value Together Project](#)
- [Save the Date for the Alliance and Bree Webinar on July 15 for \*Aligning Quality Measures: Can We Measure What Matters More Efficiently?\*](#)
- [Alliance Vaccination Update](#)

### 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.](#)

***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.***



### Improving Primary Care Webinar

A recently issued report from the National Academies of Sciences, Education, and Medicine recognized that primary care, the foundation of a high performing health care system, “is crumbling,” and outlined steps to improve it in [Implementing High Quality Primary Care: Rebuilding the Foundation of Health Care.](#)

At a recent webinar co-sponsored by the Washington Health Alliance (Alliance) and Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA), we reviewed the report's recommendations and learned how we can

improve primary care here in Washington state with:

- HCA Director Sue Birch;
- Alliance Executive Director Nancy Giunto;
- President of the Milbank Memorial Fund and one of the report's co-authors Chris Koller;
- Alex Rule, Western Region of Healthcare Strategy at Gallagher;
- Brent Schlosstein, Founder and Senior Partner at TRUEbenefits LLC; and
- SEIU 775 Benefits Group Director of Health Plan Performance and Strategy Laura Kate Zaichkin.

See the webinar and presentation [here](#).



### **Karen Johnson at Cambia Grove's *Optimizing Incentives Summit***

Cambia Grove's spring 2020 Paying for Health series brought global, national, and community thought leaders to the virtual stage to discuss how to improve health outcomes and how to align stakeholder incentives with those outcomes. During its Incentivizing Health Hackathon, a wide variety of stakeholders came together to develop care and payment models that align incentives with a lifetime of health.

The *Optimizing Incentives Summit* on June 8 and 9 will build on that work to address the barriers in the health care system through a candid look at the past, present, and future with a focus on aligning incentives. Alliance Director of Performance Improvement and Innovation Karen Johnson will participate in the *5 Points of Health Care Panel Discussion: Where Does the Money Go? A system-wide look at the current state of incentives in health care* on June 8 at 11:30 am PT.

Register [here](#).



### **Alliance Team Members Join Health Care Cost Transparency Board Data Committee**

The [Washington State Health Care Cost Transparency Board](#) (HCCTB), created by [House Bill 2457](#), is charged with reducing health care growth and increasing price transparency in Washington state. To help conduct its work, the HCCTB has an [Advisory Committee on Health Care Providers and Carriers](#) and an [Advisory Committee on Data Issues](#).

The Data Advisory Committee will provide advice to the board on determining cost drivers and informing the annual legislative reports on the cost benchmark and benchmark performance. At its May 10 meeting, the HCCTB announced Alliance Director of Data Management and Analytics Mark Pregler and Director of Performance Improvement and Innovation Karen Johnson as new members of the Data Issues Committee.

The first meeting of the Data Issues Committee will be held on July 8. The next meeting of the HCCTB is June 16.



### **Alliance Moves Forward on Driving Value Project**

Alliance Director of Performance Improvement and Innovation Karen Johnson shared our progress on the Driving Value Project with the [Smarter Health Care Coalition](#) (Coalition), committed to working together to improving health care in a variety of ways with a strong focus on policy. The Driving Value Project supported by Arnold Ventures, is working with eight self-funded members of the Alliance to identify and reduce low-value care and increase high-value care.

The Coalition's goal is to integrate benefit design innovations and patient engagement to achieve smarter health care that improves the patient experience. In particular, the Coalition is focused on better aligning health insurance coverage, quality, and value-based payment goals. Created in 2016, building on the work of Dr. A Mark Fendrick, Director of the University of Michigan Center for Value-Based Insurance Design, and Harvard Medical School Professor Michael Chernew, the Coalition represents a broad-based and diverse group of health care innovators, including consumer groups, employers, patient advocacy organizations, health plans, and life science companies.

The Coalition recently issued a [letter](#) asking US Department of Health and Human Services Secretary

Xavier Becerra to:

- eliminate Medicare payment for services rated “D” by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force;
- allow Medicare Advantage organizations to reduce payments or increase cost-sharing for “D” rated, harmful preventive services; and
- enable the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Innovation to build a new, multi-state demonstration project to reduce low-value care in commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid populations.

View the presentation [here](#).



**SAVE THE DATE: July 15 Alliance and Bree Webinar for *Aligning Quality Measures: Can We Measure What Matters More Efficiently?***

Join the Washington Health Alliance and Dr. Robert Bree Collaborative on Thursday July 15, 2021 from 11 am to 12:30 pm PT for the third Framework for Action webinar, asking why aligning quality measurement is important to value-based adoption and success.

Registration information will be available soon.

## Alliance Vaccination Update

**In this month's issue:**

- All Washington Counties in Phase 3 of Healthy Washington Reopening
- Update on Activities and Masks for Fully Vaccinated People
- Vaccinations in Washington State

Read the update [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 [tamura@wahealthalliance.org](mailto:tamura@wahealthalliance.org).

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