

Executive Director Message on Upcoming Alliance Staffing Changes

Karen Johnson resigned her position as Director of Performance Improvement and Innovation at the Washington Health Alliance to assume the role of Vice President, Practice Advancement at the American Academy of Family Physicians. In her new role, Karen will lead a team focused on primary care payment innovation and family physician career and practice advancement, an area of real passion for her.

This change in assignment will allow Karen to return to Kansas City, her long-time home and where she believes she will be best served personally. Karen has committed to work with the Alliance on a smooth transition in the coming weeks. Her last day with the Alliance will be October 1, 2021.

Karen's efforts helped us advance the work of the Alliance considerably during her time here, including leadership with the Purchaser Affinity Group, the Quality Improvement Committee and the Board Sustainability and Innovation Committee. She reimagined the eValue8™ process, orchestrating a wonderful conversation between purchasers and payers. Karen led the Driving Value Project, supported by Arnold Ventures, encouraging deeper collaboration by purchasers on enhancing high-value and eliminating low-value care by paying attention to clinical evidence. She furthered our state and national visibility through numerous speaking engagements.

We wish Karen the best of luck in her new role and she will undoubtedly be in touch as she focuses her energies on strengthening primary care in our nation, an important priority for many Alliance members.

Looking ahead, the Alliance has [posted](#) two positions, for a [Director of Purchasing Strategies](#) and a [Medical Director of Performance Measurement and Practice Transformation](#) and we would appreciate your help in spreading the word.