



Leading health system improvement

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

How a federal court ruling could impact preventative care coverage

Equitable access to high-value, appropriate care is core to the mission of the Washington Health Alliance. However, a September ruling from a federal judge in Texas on a lawsuit attacking the Affordable Care Act may erode the progress our health care system has made toward that goal.

In *Braidwood Management Inc. et al. vs. Becerra et al.*, U.S. District Court Judge Reed O'Connor determined a requirement that commercial health plans offer coverage without cost-sharing to services recommended by the United States Preventive Services Task Force was unconstitutional given that the members were independent, subject to no direction or control from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and as such must be appointed by the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

The recommendations from this task force form the basis for what preventative services must be covered at no cost by nearly all private health plans.

[Read the full letter.](#)

The latest from the Washington Health Alliance:

Washington lawmakers look to strengthen reproductive rights

Following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, Washington's state lawmakers expressed clear intentions to further protect reproductive rights, including access to abortion.

In late October, a group of lawmakers joined Gov. Jay Inslee to highlight a legislative agenda for the coming 2023 session that will focus on protecting those who seek abortions in Washington.



[Read more about the legislative efforts.](#)

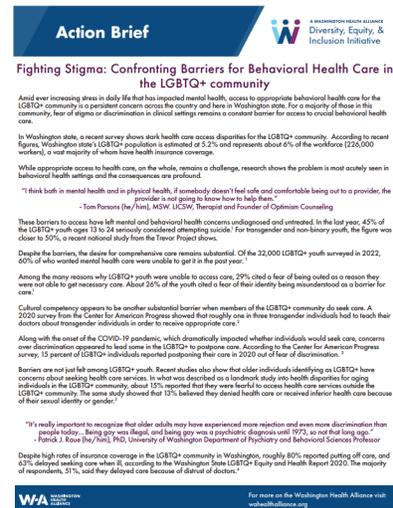
Alliance releases Action Brief regarding behavioral health needs in the LGBTQ+ community

In recognition of the upcoming Transgender Awareness Week, the Alliance has released an Action Brief that addresses behavioral healthcare barriers in the LGBTQ+ community and how best to address the problem.

The brief, which highlights that fear of discrimination and existing stigma have proven to be barriers to care, relies on expert opinions on how to increase access at a time of heightened daily stress.

The brief follows **the Alliance's Pride Month viewing of "Between the Shades,"** a documentary exploring the differing ways individuals identify within the LGBTQ+ community, and a robust panel discussion.

Read the full Action Brief.



Fourth in webinar series examines value equation in health care

Last month, the Alliance and its partner, the Foundation for Health Care Quality (FHCQ), hosted its fourth webinar in the "Change In Action" series that looks at how value is paid for in health care.



Watch the webinar.

Optimizing Case Management Services for LGBTQ Individuals

BY MICHAEL B. GARRETT, MS, CCM, CVE, BCPA

Background: Key Terms and Concepts

The lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community is very diverse, with a wide range of health needs from healthcare providers and systems that have not always treated this community with respect and dignity. Case managers can provide services for members of the LGBTQ community that result in better outcomes, improved patient/client experience and reduced overall health expenses – realizing The Triple Aim.

Gender identity is how a person thinks of themselves in the context of gender. Regardless of the physical anatomy, a person may consider themselves female, even though they have the physical attributes of being male. This means the individual is transgender. A cisgender person has alignment between their anatomy and how they think of their gender. A person may also consider themselves to be gender non-binary, meaning they do not see themselves fitting into our binary concept of male or female. Gender expression is how an individual presents to the world based on how the culture defines masculine and feminine expression, although gender expression does not indicate one's sexual orientation necessarily. Sexual orientation describes who someone is attracted to. These terms are social constructs and are influenced by the culture, region of the world and the time period. All these terms are also all on continuums, so that they are not just binary in nature but fluid. The Human Rights Campaign website includes an excellent glossary of key LGBTQ terms and concepts at www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-of-terms.

Optimizing Case Management Services for LGBTQ Individuals

In a recent article in Case Management Society of America Today, Michael Garrett, a health equity and clinical consultant, highlights how case managers can provide services that lead to better health outcomes and decreased healthcare expenses for the LGBTQ+ community.

Read the full article at CMSA Today.

Our members and supporters can be the best ambassadors for our work. If you know someone who would like to learn more about membership in the Alliance, contact Executive Director Drew Oliveira at doliveira@wahealthalliance.org.

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