

**Washington Health Alliance
Board of Directors**

MINUTES

January 28, 2014

Board Members Present: *Dr. Mark Adams (phone), Dr. Jeff Collins, Dr. Al Fisk, Dr. David Fleming, Lindsay Geyer, Dr. David Grossman, David Hansen, Steve Hill, Tom Hunt, Beth Johnson, Florence Katz, Greg Marchand, Dr. Pete McGough (phone), Yvonne Peters, Charissa Raynor, Tom Richards, Ron Sims, Dorothy Teeter, Caroline Whalen, Diane Zahn*

Board Members Absent: *Rich Maturi, Larry McNutt*

Guests: *Kent Sacia (Milliman)*

Staff Present: *Wendy Cox, Susie Dade, John Gallagher, Teresa Litton, Jennifer Loyd, Mary McWilliams, Mark Pregler*

Call to Order

Caroline Whalen called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. Mary McWilliams was delayed from the meeting until 2:55 p.m. and Susie Dade spoke on her behalf until her arrival.

Consent Calendar

Ms. Whalen and other Board members recognized retiring Board member and Secretary Lindsey Geyer, who has served on the Alliance Board since 2008. The Board unanimously approved all consent calendar items.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Dade reminded the Board that the next All Alliance meeting will be on February 25, which is the same day as the February Board meeting. There were no questions on the Executive Director's written report.

Statewide Visits

Ms. Dade reported that the Alliance is collaborating with regional stakeholders to coordinate transparency and healthcare performance meetings throughout Washington State. The Washington State Medical Association, Washington State Hospital Association, Washington State Office of Financial Management, the Alliance, and regional collaboratives are sponsoring the meetings. Regional collaboratives created the invitation list and sent the invitation to their constituencies, with input from the Alliance. Meetings were held in Skagit County, Whatcom County and Spokane, with meetings scheduled in Tri-Cities, Yakima and Wenatchee the coming two weeks. Approximately 25 – 30 local stakeholders have attended each of the meetings.

The meetings included extensive Q&A sessions and a readiness survey. Ms. Dade gave a general overview of survey results, noting that almost all respondents indicated a willingness to move forward. Some voiced a concern that the Alliance would usurp local organizations' role as convener. The Alliance emphasized to them that the Alliance role is performance measurement and reporting, and we have no intention to displace local groups. The Board offered to see the invitation lists to help leverage connections.

The Alliance will use the Community Checkup to continue dialog with each community. Alliance staff will work with local medical groups on Community Checkup reporting in three counties and will be creating a webinar series for them. The Alliance will also hire a marketing professional to help in messaging and outreach.

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Data Center Grant Update

Ms. McWilliams reported on the status of price transparency legislation. She noted that the Alliance's position statement on price transparency legislation was revised at the request of Regence BlueShield to reflect Regence's efforts to find alternate solutions to submitting line-item claims data.

Ms. McWilliams testified at State Representative Eileen Cody's hearing on crafting House Bill 2572 (HB 2572) for creating an APCD. She focused her comments on the Alliance's position statement and concluded that legislation will be required to create price transparency in Washington State and that without a mandate to submit claims data, an All Payer Claims Database (APCD) would be ineffective. She addressed areas of disagreement between the Alliance position and some members on provisions of the Bill. She also emphasized that passing the Bill would be a key milestone towards getting federal grant money for the State to reform health care in Washington State. Ms. McWilliams said the Bill would need purchaser/business support to pass the State Senate.

Ms. McWilliams informed the Board that the Alliance has officially signed a contract with the State to help develop a data center. The contract covers the next 90-120 days, and subsequent contracts will be signed as the work continues. The Alliance changed provisions in the contract to reflect the constraints of existing Alliance contracts with data suppliers.

Mark Pregler outlined the core deliverables and project plan. He pointed out that if the State mandates data submission, the data would be owned by the State. The Alliance expected to be appointed as the APCD administrator, governed by rules of use provisions established by an advisory committee.

Executive Session

The Executive Session began with a presentation from Kent Sacia, Practice Leader for Milliman. Mr. Sacia gave a review of the data procedures at Milliman and process improvements underway.

All staff left at 4:00 p.m., and the Board discussed the Executive Director's annual review.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Cox

Lindsay Geyer
Secretary

Date