

**Washington Health Alliance  
Board of Directors Meeting**

**MINUTES  
September 27, 2020**

**Board members present:** *Curt Bailey, Megan Pedersen, Dr. Peter Rutherford, John Wagner, Carol Wilmes*

**Board members call-In:** *Merissa Clyde, Kim Collier, Jim Crawford, Imelda Dacones, Jay Fathi, Sarah Greene, Fred Jarrett, Charlene Lind, Greg Marchand, Lou McDermott on behalf of Sue Birch, Larry McNutt, Lee Mills McGrath, David Nosacka, Ron Sims, Jim Zimmerman*

**Board members absent:** *David Carlson, Todd Hesse, Steve Mullin*

**Staff present (and call in):** *Teresa Battels, Sharon Eloranta, Denise Giambalvo, Catherine Lanham, Adria Moskowitz, Mark Pregler, Nicholas Rondinone*

**Guests present:** *Jim Andrianos, Calculated Risk; Dr. Amy Kind, University of Wisconsin*

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**Call to Order**

Curt Bailey called the meeting to order at 2:36 p.m. and asked about conflicts of interest. None were announced

**Consent Calendar**

- July 26, 2022 BOD Minutes
- September 8, 2022 EC Minutes
- May 19, 2022 Consumer Education Committee including:
  - Committee resignation of Andrew Radolf, Consumer
- June 09, 2022 Quality Improvement Committee including:
  - Replace Nancy Fisher with Dr. Ashby Wolfe, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
  - Resignation of Dr. Drew Oliveira from Regence BlueShield
  - Resignation of Michael Menen from UnitedHealthcare Community & State - Washington
  - Resignation of Jessica Schlicher from CHI Franciscan
- September 1, 2022 Health Economics Committee including:
  - Resignation of Karen Wren from PointB
- September ED Report
- 2021 IRS Form 990 (approved by the EC)
- Organizational Resolution to Add Authorized Signers to Alliance Vanguard Account: Drew Oliveira and Denise Giambalvo

The Board approved the Consent Agenda with the following corrections:

- July 2022 Board Meeting minutes: correct the WA-APCD Committee members by removing Sarah Greene's name and adding Pam MacEwan's name
- September 2022 EC Meeting minutes: correct the spelling of Dr. Drew Oliveira

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**Welcome to Dr. Drew Oliveira, Executive Director, Washington Health Alliance**

Curt Bailey and the Board welcomed Dr. Oliveira as the new Executive Director of Washington Health Alliance

**Initial transition**

Dr. Oliveira provided his update on the transition into being the new Executive Director. Topics that Dr. Oliveira discussed included:

- Policies – revising, updating and creating to match needs
- Opportunity to move in 2023 coupled with modernization (i.e., desk phones)
- Update Alliance banking and investments to meet our policies
- Insurance coverage review – WHA carries an additional policy outside of our by-laws for a Managed Care organization (MC E & O) which may not be required
- Need to leverage our data to identify actionable insights into either utilization or service line costs
- ADI data will be impactful for our membership
- Brand management, consistency and website to review and update
- More of a focus on value discussions within our committees
- Work groups to bring other member organizations together such as Pharma, Affiliates

**Welcome to New Board Members**

Curt Bailey welcomed our two new Board members:

- Jim Crawford, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Washington Health Benefit Exchange
- David Nosacka, Division Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, Virginia Mason Franciscan Health

The Board members and staff went around the room and Zoom introducing themselves.

**Farewell to Fred Jarrett**

Curt Bailey led the Board and the Alliance in saying a farewell to Fred Jarrett for his many years on the Board, and with all his other roles supporting the Alliance since the inception of the Puget Sound Health Alliance in 2004. The Alliance presented Fred with a Word Cloud and a bottle of wine.

**Neighborhood Health Variation Index (Area Deprivation Index)**

The Alliance welcomed guest speaker, Amy Kind, MD, from the University of Wisconsin, Director for Center for Health Disparities Research, who presented on the ADI use cases, research and validation including preliminary outcome views.

They focus not only on health disparities but also on moving the needle to bring about improved health outcomes. Factors that result in health disparities are environmental, sociocultural, behavioral and biological that interact with each other. Factors external to the biological are called “Exosome,” describing that the biological human lives in an environment with exposures across their life course that have biological ramifications, including gut microbiome to social determinants of health to structural inequities. Metrics of the exosome are

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quantifiable. Brain physiology is associated with living in highly disadvantaged contexts. In order to make progress, access to data should be open, hence the development of the Area Deprivation Index. It is a way of thinking about quality across domains with an eye towards equity, access to care and quality of care.

This was followed by a discussion on application and best practices of information and potential actions resulting from information at purchaser, payer and provider levels.

**Reporting**

Drew Oliveira and Mark Pregler presented a request to be allowed to go deeper into our data, including utilization and unit cost to gain insights into what is driving Total Cost of Care. This may include service line variations or other insights for providers, plans and purchasers. The Alliance needs feedback from the Board as to whether the Alliance can bring the potential actionable insights to the Alliance Committees for discussion and potential action. The health plan Board members request the Alliance bring examples of use cases in order to be able to move forward before any deeper look at the data can occur.

The Board decided to table the vote on this request at this time. Dr. Oliveira and Mr. Pregler will forward the Alliance's ask in writing if there is a need to amend the current data supplier agreements. In either event, the Alliance will provide the Board with examples of how deeper evaluation of the data can inform our members to take action on quality, costs or both.

**HCA Primary Care Transformation**

Due to time constraints, this topic will be deferred to the October 25 Board meeting.

The objective of this topic will be to provide the Board with an update on the Alliance's involvement on the Washington State Healthcare Authority's (HCA) efforts to put into place primary care transformation program. Both Ms Giambalvo and Dr. Eloranta are on work groups. If we bring more purchasers on board, they will have to agree to the charter that has been set up. The Alliance is looking for feedback from the Board as to the level of Alliance involvement preferred: Does the Board want the Alliance to take more of an active role in helping the HCA with this and have discussions with health plans, or be more of an observer?

**The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.**

*Respectfully submitted by Adria Moskowitz*

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Curt Bailey, Chair