

Meeting Summary

Thursday, December 9, 2021 (Meeting held virtually)

Members Present: Dan Kent, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan (Chair)
Mary Anderson, The Polyclinic
Lydia Bartholomew, Aetna
Edwin Carmack, Confluence Health
Nancy Fisher, Region 8, 9 & 10, CMS
Frances Gough, Molina Health Care
Rick Hourigan, Cigna
Steve Jacobson, Premera
Matt Jaffy, UW Neighborhood Clinics
Larry McNutt, Northwest Administrators; WHA Board Member (guest)
Dan Monahan, Novartis (guest)
Mike Myint, Embright
Komal Patil-Sisodia, Evergreen Healthcare
Paul Sherman, Community Health Plan of Washington
Hugh Straley, The Robert Bree Collaborative
Liz Uraga, OMC (guest)
Judy Zerzan-Thul, HCA

Staff Present: Jim Andrianos (WHA Consultant), Leslie Bennett, Sharon Eloranta,
Nancy Giunto, Mark Pregler, Theresa Tamura

Introductions, approval of meeting minutes

Members introduced themselves and we welcomed our guests; reminded the group of the executive session to follow.

Actions

The QIC meeting summary from October 2021 was approved with no changes; the committee also approved the advancement of two prospective QIC members, Caryn Avery and Lisa Ivanjack, to the Board for final approval.

Committee Leadership/Succession Structure

Dan and Sharon introduced the plan to have both a Chair and Vice Chair, as a step toward building a predictable leadership pipeline, and also proposed a two-year term for these positions. Dr. Steve Jacobson was proposed as Chair, and Dr. Rick Hourigan was proposed as Vice Chair; both received approval from the QIC.

Thank you and farewell to Dr. Dan Kent

Sharon and the group thanked Dan for his service on the QIC; he has been on the committee since 2015 and served as Chair since 2017. Dan showed pictures of his adorable grandchildren and assured us that he will remain busy after retirement. Thanks and farewell, Dan!

Executive Session: Review of the Total Cost of Care (TCOC) Report

Jim Andrianos reviewed the background and release timeline for the TCOC report:

- 1) Geographic data (data on TCOC by ACH and county) will be released first, early in 2022.
- 2) Medical group and clinic-level data will be released subsequently, later in Q1 2022.
- 3) Today's session is part of the committee review process; the report will go to the Board for final approval on December 14.

Jim then reviewed the questions that were asked by the Health Economics Committee, and the answers to those questions. There was discussion about the risk adjustment (MARA) normalization; the effect of the Oregon market on the SW Washington results (Jim is researching); and clarification that "high cost" patients are those whose TCOC is greater than 3 standard deviations above the average.

Recommendations from HEC included:

- 1) Include high-cost patients
- 2) Border issues need clarification
- 3) There is a need to press for more complete data submission from some partners e.g. at border
- 4) Effects of SDOH will be better known when we have the ADI data and can stratify the PMPM by ADI decile

Jim then reviewed the actual 2019 Commercial results by ACH and county:

- 1) General comments: we don't risk adjust by actual inpatient spend categories; at this time, we do not know the reasons WHY PMPMs vary, that is the drivers like price and utilization that comprise the TCoC; that will come later in version 2.0; we use allowed amounts; ACH is a geographic grouper that may or may not be seen as important.
- 2) Discussion re: San Juan County and its high PMPM for "ambulance services" and Skagit County with comparatively high PMPM for hospital outpatient as areas in need of clarification going forward.

Group discussion on use of the MARA risk adjustment methodology:

- 1) Jim described how MARA works – uses history of utilization and diagnoses at the member level to create relative health and then apply to a population.
- 2) Request from the group to show the differences between MARA and other (e.g., CMS HCC methodology, which seems to be widely used) in the report – this is a parallel discussion, with Leslie's communication track; many QIC members have volunteered to help review and make suggestions on this track.

Nancy Giunto asked the group to identify overall reactions to the report:

- 1) Edwin: really liked it; likes the ability to compare county to WA; it is important to have trended data; wants to dig into utilization vs costs to find out what drives PMPM (For this, Jim and Mark pointed out that we will need to review the methodology with our

committees, and ask suppliers for permission to share information pertinent to this issue).

- 2) Hugh wondered about what the provider community's responses will be, and reminded us that the ADI data will be extremely important in addressing issues of health equity; will be interesting to look at 2020 for effects of COVID county-by-county, in relation to vaccination rate etc.
- 3) Matt stated that this is exciting and will have huge value – what to DO about this? Trends will be more interesting – there are more questions than answers.
- 4) Question about behavioral health inclusion: Most suppliers exclude BH claims under law.

After a motion, second and vote, the TCOC report was approved by the QIC to move forward to the Board.

2022 meeting dates: 2:00 – 4:00pm 2nd Thursday of every other month:

- February 10
- April 14
- June 9
- August 11
- October 13
- December 8