

Meeting Summary

Thursday, December 10, 2020 (Meeting held virtually)

Members Present: Mary Anderson, The Polyclinic
Lydia Bartholomew, Aetna
Edwin Carmack, Confluence Health
Nancy Fisher, Region 8, 9 & 10, CMS
Bruce Gregg, MultiCare Health System
Frances Gough, Molina Health Care
Kim Herner, Valley Medical Center
Darcy Jaffe, Washington State Hospital Association
Matt Jaffy, UW Neighborhood Clinics
Randal Moseley, Confluence Health
Drew Oliveira, Regence Blue Shield
Jessica Schlicher, CHI Franciscan Health
Paul Sherman, Community Health Plan of Washington
Hugh Straley, The Robert Bree Collaborative
John Vassall, Comagine Health

Members Absent: Drew Baldwin, Virginia Mason Medical Center
Matt Handley, Kaiser Permanente Washington
Wui-Leong Koh, Kaiser Permanente Northwest
Dan Kent, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan (Chair)
Gary Knox, MultiCare Rockwood Clinic
Aileen Mickey, Evergreen Health Medical Group
Charles Peterson, Proliance Surgeons
Julie Stroud, Northwest Physicians Network/The Everett Clinic
Judy Zerzan, Washington State Health Care Authority

Guests: Gregory Jones, Lucid Living
Dan Monahan, Novartis

Staff Present: Leslie Bennett, Nancy Giunto, Karen Johnson, Mark Pregler, and Theresa Tamura (Washington Health Alliance) and Jim Andrianos (Calculated Risk – WHA Consultant)

Introductions, approval of meeting minutes

- In Dr. Kent's absence, Karen Johnson thanked Randy Mosely for his many years of service to QIC and welcomed new member Dr. Edwin Carmack who is taking his seat on the committee on behalf of Confluence Health.

Action: The QIC meeting minutes from October 2020 were approved with no changes.

Update and Discussion: Driving Value Project

Karen Johnson described this project that involves eight self-funded Alliance purchaser members (individual employers and union trusts) using data to inform opportunities to improve the value of the care received by plan participants. Using results from the Health Waste Calculator™ and a subset of Community Checkup measures, the employers are working together to identify an area of opportunity to collectively address in collaboration with providers and health plans. The multi-stakeholder group has agreed to focus on improving the value of low back pain care by working collectively to increase reliance on evidence-based non-opioid, non-surgical alternatives.

Value-Based Summit – Call to Action

Dr. Hugh Straley reviewed the “headlines” from the Summit that include the following:

- Don Berwick – Health can only be achieved when health inequities are eliminated or reduced. The issues in this realm dwarf the issues we are addressing in the clinical setting
- HCA (Sue Birch and Dr. Judy Zerzan-Thul – The state’s goal for value-based care payments is 90% by the end of 2021
- David Muehlstein (Leavitt Partners) – The Medicare Trust Fund is projected to be bankrupt by 2024. Can Value-Based care avert this potential crisis
- Provider Panel – Identified four areas for change around which all must collaborate to be successful:
 - Aligned multi-payer provider payment models
 - Aligned multi-payer quality measurement
 - Interoperable data (combined claims and clinical data) to identify hot spots, areas for improvement and cost reduction
 - Collectively addressing social determinants of health

The Alliance and Bree are working together to formulate a call to action for all in the form of a pledge around these four “accelerators for change” identified by the panel.

Dr. Straley posed the following question to the group: Is there one thing that your organization can do to move us toward value-based payment? Highlights from this discussion include the following:

- Providers are eager to demonstrate their quality, but the current situation is untenable for most.
- The number of measures (as many as 60) tied to Value-Based contracts is “impossible to manage” for a provider group.
- Managing value-based contracts requires provider groups to generate reports in a variety of formats and/or report to payers through a variety of different mechanisms, e.g. portals, secure email
- Important to focus on measures that are most meaningful to patients and purchasers.

- It was suggested that primary care is the right place to start, because of the number of measures tied to primary care, as well as the work that HCA is doing with health plans to rationalize the number of primary care measures in that model.
- Value was suggested as a mechanism by which measures could be prioritized and/or ranked.

There was general agreement that the QIC was a forum where this could/should be further vetted. The Alliance team will include rationalizing and prioritizing both the measures and the mechanisms by which those measures are evaluated in the priorities for QIC in 2021.

Open Information Exchange/Journal Club

During this time for open exchange around “what’s on your minds and not on the agenda”, we heard the following comments and recommendations:

- Dr. Kim Herner shared information about Hands Across the Hills (www.handsacrossthehills.org), the story of two communities that come from starkly different perspectives and forged a connection following the 2016 election.
- Dr. Hugh Straley recommended Elizabeth Wilkerson’s book titled *Caste*. This was seconded by Dr. Vassal.
- Dr. Vassal recommended *Hillbilly Elegy* and *Depths of Despair* that help to explain the impact of the income gap on lower income white communities.
- Dr. Nancy Fischer recommended *Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America’s Shining Women* by Kate Moore.
- Dr. Hugh Straley related that a recent recommendation from Barrack Obama is *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin (1963).
- Dr. Vassal also recommended Barrack Obama’s recently released book titled *A Promised Land*.
- Guest Gregory Jones recommended *Waiting for an Echo: The Madness of American Incarceration* by Christine Monstross
- *The New Jim Crow* by Elizabeth Alexander
- Dr. Herner recommended *Storytelling With Data: A Data Visualization Guide for Business Professionals* by Cole Nussbaumer Knaflic.
- Dr. Drew Oliveira recommended *Enlightenment Now* by Steven Pinker – a very dense historical world context view of the world that provides hope. Dr. Straley seconded Pinker as an excellent author and also recommended *The Better Nature of Our Angels*.