

*Dear Community Member,*

*I am very pleased to provide my first Update as Executive Director of the Puget Sound Health Alliance.*

*My first days at the Alliance have been busy and stimulating. The highlight was an engaging and productive daylong retreat in which the Board discussed how the Alliance should focus our work to enable the health care system to deliver greater value.*

*I look forward to building on the strong foundation of the Alliance and mobilizing the stakeholders around performance reports and other initiatives to advance quality health care at an affordable cost in Puget Sound. We hope you will join us in those efforts.*

*Best wishes for a wonderful summer.*

*Mary McWilliams*  
Executive Director

**Progress At-A-Glance** Due to the hard work of the Alliance Board, committees, workgroups and staff, the Alliance has made progress on many fronts, including:

- ✓ **Conducted health plan site visits with 10 major purchasers** in connection with eValue8, a program of the National Business Coalition on Health (NBCH) that allows employers and other health care purchasers to evaluate health plans based on national guidelines and standards. The six participating health plans submitted their information to NBCH for scoring and then the participating purchasers from this region – including Boeing, WAMU, and the WA State Health Care Authority – reviewed the scores to identify targeted areas for improvement. Target areas include designing benefits and reimbursement to promote value, and using information from claims to identify and act upon gaps in care for patients with chronic disease and for patients eligible for evidence-based preventive screening tests.
- ✓ **Launched three-month Prescription for Health Information pilot program** with The Providence St. Peter Hospital Family Medicine Residency Program in Olympia, CHOICE Regional Health Network and Timberland Regional Library to help connect patients with evidence-based, consumer-friendly tools and information to enable them to better manage their health.
- ✓ **Completed development of a secure portal** to enable clinicians to access privately the draft version of the Community Checkup reports to review their clinic performance results, and then provide feedback to the Alliance before the report is finalized and made public. For more information, see the “Important Reminder to Clinics” below.

- ✓ **Highlighted in the 2008 Healthiest State Report Card as a program making a positive difference in improving medical care quality.** The Report Card, produced by the Washington Health Foundation's Healthiest State in the Nation Campaign, shows where Washington state stands on a variety of health measures. This year's Report Card showed that for the first time in nine years, Washington has moved into the top 10 in state health rankings. The Report Card also highlighted people and programs helping to improve the health in Washington, including the Alliance.
- ✓ **Participated as part of the Washington State team in the State Quality Improvement Institute sponsored by AcademyHealth and The Commonwealth Fund.** Washington is one of nine states selected to participate in the Institute designed to help states develop and implement concrete action plans to improve performance across targeted quality indicators. Washington State is focusing on measuring and improving medical home capacity, including development of reimbursement strategies to support providers in adopting a medical home model.

### **Welcome to the Alliance!**

The Alliance now has 177 participating organizations and 59 individual participants. Since our last Update, the following groups and individuals have joined the Alliance:

Carena, Inc.	Charlotte McCabe
Snoqualmie Valley Hospital	The Tooth Fairies
Workwell Consultants	

### **IMPORTANT REMINDER TO CLINICS: Your Participation Needed for Next Report**

**The 2nd Community Checkup report is in development.** It will show results for **all** clinics with **6 or more clinicians** (including Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants) in several specialties, in King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish and Thurston counties. Questions? See [www.onehealthport.com/services/communitycheckup.php](http://www.onehealthport.com/services/communitycheckup.php).

**On or before July 23**, all clinics should complete the following:

- ✓ Update your practitioner roster information in OneHealthPort to ensure that the Community Checkup reflects your current clinic structure. For instructions on this process, go to [www.onehealthport.com/services/communitycheckup.php](http://www.onehealthport.com/services/communitycheckup.php).
- ✓ Designate a Quality Assurance (QA) Manager in OneHealthPort as the person to receive notification and be able to download your clinic's draft results for review prior to report being finalized and released publicly. Clinics who review their draft results are encouraged to provide feedback on the Community Checkup prior to public release.

**For more information**, contact Natasha Rosenblatt at 206.448.2570 x123 or email [nrosenblatt@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org](mailto:nrosenblatt@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org).

**Upcoming Events and Opportunities**

- ✓ **Taking Control of Your Health Records – Help shape the future of electronic health records for patients and their families** by sharing your views in a short survey from AccessMyHealth.org. Online personalized health records can help you make better use your time with your doctors and keep track of medications and other important health information. AccessMyHealth.org, a partnership of patients, doctors, and others wants to improve patients’ access to their personal health records. Let them know what would work for you at [www.accessmyhealth.org](http://www.accessmyhealth.org).
- ✓ **Helping Employees Stop Smoking - Washington Quits! and The Washington Association of Health Underwriters presents “Major League Education and Baseball”** on Wednesday, August 6 at Safeco Field. Boeing’s Wellness Program Director talks about how and why his company developed one of the most robust stop-smoking programs in the nation. Presentations begin at 8:30 a.m.; Mariners vs. Twins at 1:30 p.m. To register, go to: <https://asi-seattle.com/agent/wahu-baseball/register.php>

**Alliance in the News**

*June 6, 2008*

*Puget Sound Business Journal (Seattle)*

**Health Alliance lands \$1M grant for patient initiatives**

The nonprofit Puget Sound Health Alliance has landed \$1 million in grants for initiatives to improve health care in Washington, which if effective could slash medical costs by many millions of dollars. The grants flow from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, a Princeton, N.J., philanthropic organization aiming to improve health care for all Americans. Read more.

*June 5, 2008*

*The Seattle Times (editorial)*

**Moving toward smarter health-care decisions**

Amid the political promises about sweeping health-care reform, the Puget Sound Health Alliance is tackling the real nitty-gritty of reform - and has earned more resources to keep doing it. Impressed enough with its previous investment in the alliance, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation today is announcing another grant of \$1 million over the next three years so the alliance can continue collaborative work with health-care providers, insurers, employers and other community members. Read more.

*June 5, 2008*

*Seattle Post Intelligencer*

**Millions granted to improve health care: Puget Sound area part of 14- site collaboration**

On the heels of a nationwide study pointing to major discrepancies in patient care in hospitals across the U.S., the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation pledged \$1 million to the Puget Sound Health Alliance to help improve health care quality. Read more.

*June 5, 2008*

*The Seattle Times*

**Grant to Puget Sound Health Alliance will target health inequities**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has announced it will give the Puget Sound Health Alliance more than \$1 million and significant technical assistance as part of a \$300 million initiative to improve health quality in 14 communities around the country. Read more.

*If you have suggestions about the content of this Update or would like to submit news to possibly include in future Updates, contact Diane Giese at (206) 448-2570 ext 117 or [diane@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org](mailto:diane@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org).*