
Update to the Community

February 2010

In this issue

- Progress At-A-Glance
- Progress on the 2010 Community Checkup Report on Medical Groups
- Alliance's Health Equity Toolkit
- Upcoming Events

Dear Community Member

Last week, I joined representatives from Snohomish County, Puget Sound Health Partners and the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) meeting for Chartered Value Exchanges (CVE) in Washington D.C. As a CVE, the Alliance was able to engage in a nationwide learning network of similar multi-stakeholder coalitions to discuss best practices and developing initiatives around performance measurement, public reporting and payment reform. While the outcome of the federal reform is uncertain, it's clear that our work has become part of the fabric of health care.

The meeting was also an opportunity for John Gallagher, the Alliance's new director of communication and development to be immersed in this work. John comes to the Alliance with more than 20 years of experience in public relations and journalism and a background in biotechnology, physician membership organizations, and evidence-based medicine. You will get a chance to meet John at the All Alliance meeting on health equity on February 11 at 7:30 am in One Union Square. This meeting features Dr. Reed Tuckson, Chief of Medical Affairs for UnitedHealth Group and an inspiring spokesperson for health equity. We also have three panel contributors from Neighborcare Health, Harborview Medical Center and the Regence Group plus 15 organizations with poster boards for the networking periods before and after the meeting. See you Thursday!

Regards,

Mary McWilliams
Alliance Executive Director

Progress At-A-Glance

Thanks to the hard work of the Board, committees, workgroups, volunteers and staff, the Alliance continues to make progress, including:

- **Completing the data submission process by data suppliers for the 2010 Community Checkup report on medical groups.** See more information below.
- **Finalizing the Alliance's first "health equity toolkit," to be distributed at the All Alliance meeting on February 11.** The toolkit will be made available on our website after the meeting.

Want to find out more? *Keep reading!*

Progress on the 2010 Community Checkup Report on Medical Groups

~~~~~

Health plans, self-insured employers and union trusts have submitted their data for the 2010 Community Checkup report on medical groups. The Alliance asked medical groups to update their provider rosters last month via a new clinic roster application designed to simplify the process. Changes to medical groups' provider and practice location information are due by Wednesday, February 10th.

The next Community Checkup report is scheduled to be publicly released in the Spring. The Alliance is now asking health plans, self-insured employers and union trusts to submit data for the time period July 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009 by April 30, 2010.

## Alliance's Health Equity Toolkit

~~~~~

Attendees at the All Alliance meeting on February 11 will receive the Alliance's first "health equity toolkit" developed by our multi-stakeholder Consumer Engagement Team. The toolkit features innovative ways that local health care organizations are addressing health disparities with suggestions for others to get started in doing their part in this important work. The toolkit will also be made available online after the meeting. Our goal is to create a way for sharing across the community. What are you already doing to ensure equitable health care for everyone in this region? Alliance participants are invited to submit information for future versions of this toolkit.

Upcoming Events

~~~~~

### **Dr. Abraham Verghese at Seattle Arts & Lectures - February 10, 2010**

Dr. Verghese will give a talk entitled "Touching Where It Hurts: Bedside Medicine in a Technological Age." Dr. Tachi Yamada, president of the Gates Foundation Global Health Program, will be introducing Dr. Verghese. Abraham Verghese is the author of the memoirs *My Own Country: A Doctor's Story* (1994), about the arrival of the AIDS epidemic in rural Tennessee, and *The Tennis Partner: A Story of Friendship and Loss* (1998), which is about addiction and suicide. His inaugural novel, *Cutting for Stone* (2009), concerns two generations of doctors in Ethiopia and America. For more information, please visit [www.lectures.org/verghese.html](http://www.lectures.org/verghese.html)

### **Prescription for a Healthy Workforce and a Healthier Bottom Line - February 23, 2010**

In this conference you will hear from three prominent organizations - Intel, Mercer and the Washington State Health Care Authority - with which Virginia Mason Medical Center is working to turn vision into commitment, analysis into action and promises into realities. These organizations are leading the way in transforming health care. By collaborating and sharing their talents and energy, they are designing a template for outstanding and affordable health care that can benefit you and your employees. Program details and registration information are available at [www.vmmworks.org/events/resForm2010.php](http://www.vmmworks.org/events/resForm2010.php)

**20th Annual Art and Science of Health Promotion Conference - March 15-19, 2010**

Under the theme, "What Works Good, Better, Best In Health Promotion?" the 20th Annual Art and Science of Health Promotion Conference will feature the latest findings and most effective applications in the field of health promotion, presented by the top scientists and practitioners in the nation. The conference brings together a national audience of health promotion professionals from across disciplines and settings, and will offer a combination of keynote, lecture, discussion and small informal group formats. Educational tracks will include: Return on Investment, Program Strategies, Incentives, Health Psychology, Innovative Programs, Research Presentations and Good, Better, Best. Program details and registration information are available at [www.HealthPromotionConference.org](http://www.HealthPromotionConference.org)

**Dr. Atul Gawande at Seattle Arts & Lectures - May 3, 2010**

Dr. Gawande's talk is entitled "Real Reform: What Is Great Health Care?" A physician/surgeon, New Yorker magazine staffer, and MacArthur Fellow, Atul Gawande scrutinizes medical practices and the health care system. *Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science* was a National Book Award finalist. For more information, please visit: [www.lectures.org/gawande.html](http://www.lectures.org/gawande.html)

**Suggestions or Comments about this Update?**

~~~~~  
Email: jgallagher@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org
Contact Us Form: <http://www.pugetsoundhealthalliance.org/contact.cfm>
~~~~~