
Update to the Community

November 2009

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Dear Community Member

Last week, just as the health reform debate would be at a fever pitch, representatives from the Alliance and other grantees from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Aligning Forces for Quality program were on Capitol Hill talking with members of Congress about ways to support better quality health care in our community. These efforts were sponsored by the RWJF's Project Connect, a project that supports grantees in building relationships with their members of Congress and other policy-makers. I'm happy to report that board chair, Dr. David Fleming and Alliance director of communication & development, Diane Stollenwerk were able to garner deserved attention for our community during what was a hectic week. Our efforts in this community are making a difference and we were pleased to share our insights with the Washington delegation.

Closer to home, please save the date for the next All Alliance meeting on January 7 when we will introduce plans for reporting on the relative intensity of services, or resource use to address an important part of the value equation (quality + cost = value). Please see below for more details.

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:

- **Adding health plans to the Community Checkup report.** Go check out the expanded information at www.WACommunityCheckup.org website.
- **Convened a summit on health care reform.** Alliance staff and members helped organize a program that attracted a wide audience.
- **Developed a preliminary analysis for resource use reporting to be presented at the next All Alliance meeting.** More information is below.

Want to find out more? *Keep reading!*

Alliance Adds Health Plans to Community Checkup Report

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Ten large employers in Washington have been working with six health plans (insurers) to identify shared priorities for health plan programs and activities. Using the National Business Coalition on Health's eValue8 tool, the employers and health plans worked together in 2008 and again in 2009. The most recent assessment is now available in our [Community Checkup](#) report.

This expansion of the Community Checkup report acknowledges the vital role that health plans play in promoting health and value in the local health care system. Specifically, the report now shows seven categories related to health plans: overall profile; consumer engagement; provider measurement; pharmaceutical management; prevention and health promotion; chronic disease management; and behavioral health.

**Alliance Participates in Summit on Health Reform**

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In mid-October, when the U.S. Senate was busy passing its health-care reform bill, more than 140 people gathered at the Lynnwood Convention Center to learn about and debate an effective health-care reform program going on right now in the Puget Sound region. Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon and the Alliance's executive director, Mary McWilliams brought together some of our state's best and most authoritative medical professionals and medical-care leaders under one roof. Executive Reardon said, "there isn't one organization that can fix the system. Companies, unions, employees and the medical community all have a role." Click [here](#) to read more about the conference.

Save the Date: January 7 All Alliance Meeting

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**Defining Value in Health Care - An Introduction to Resource Use Reporting - January 7, 2009**

Alliance Participants are welcome to join us at the next All Alliance meeting for an introduction to the Alliance's plans for reporting on the relative intensity of services, or resource use. The keynote speaker, Dr. Mark Rattray, will give an overview of what's happening nationally and the Alliance will provide a series of blinded reports to show attendees how reports might look in this region. The program will take place at the One Union Square Boardroom in downtown Seattle at 7:30 a.m. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Natalie Moe at [nmoe@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org](mailto:nmoe@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org)

**Alliance Call for Presentations on Health Equity**

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Here's a chance to highlight your great work to help reduce health disparities in this region. On February 11, the Alliance will hold an All Alliance meeting on Addressing Health Disparities, including a "poster session" to highlight local programs or projects. We know that many of you are engaged in important work in this area, and this community meeting provides a great way for each of us to learn from each

other. To showcase your program or project at this meeting, please send a brief email to us that describes:

- What was the challenge or problem you are addressing?
- Who is the audience or focus of your program or project?
- What approach did you take?
- What improvement do you expect and/or what results have you seen thus far?

We will select as many submissions as possible to develop a poster to be displayed at the All Alliance meeting. This invitation is open to all participants in the Alliance. For questions, and to submit your program or project, please email sarah@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org.

Washington Hospitals Pledge to Eliminate Hospital Acquired Infections by 2012

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More than 50 hospitals have signed a pledge to eliminate hospital acquired infections by 2012! With the support of their communities and staff, these hospitals are working to keep patients and their families safe. In the coming weeks, the Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA) will be releasing information about this goal to the media and writing local media releases for participating hospitals. To learn more about the goal, or to find out what your hospital needs to do to join the effort, please contact Carol Wagner at carolw@wsha.org or (206) 577-1831.

### **Virginia Mason Leader Earns Patient Safety Honors**

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CEO of Virginia Mason Hospital Medical Center, Dr. Gary Kaplan, was recently honored with the 2009 John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award from the National Quality Forum and The Joint Commission. Dr. Kaplan was honored as an individual, and was recognized for "guiding Virginia Mason Medical Center through a transformation that explicitly placed the interests of the patient first. Congratulations to Dr. Kaplan, and all of Virginia Mason, for this deserved recognition!

Upcoming Events

Improving Health, Reforming Health Care: An Employer Call to Action - November 8-10, 2009

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Attention, health care stakeholders! Join the National Business Coalition on Health (NBCH) and its coalition employer members at the health care buyer's premier conference - two days of in-depth training, networking, & product demonstrations with health care's largest employer customers. Meet with peers and experts alike, capitalizing on this unique opportunity to discuss health care issues and insights as NBCH presents Improving Health, Reforming Health Care: An Employer Call to Action. The 2009 Annual Conference will convene nearly 500 health care leaders in Scottsdale, Arizona, November 8-10, to focus on the overarching and interconnected imperatives of health and health care transformation. More information at: <http://www.nbch.org/events/conference.cfm>

**Washington Health Foundation Heroes of Health Awards - November 12, 2009**

The Washington Health Foundation is pleased to host the 9th Annual Heroes of Health Awards. This annual event showcases the participants in the Healthiest State Campaign who best exemplify the leadership needed to make Washington the Healthiest State in the Nation! More information at:

<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Invitation.aspx?i=35f427ef-c3c1-45be-aa26-bba0e441b7d7>

**Washington Health Foundation Improving Health Through National Health Reform Conference - November 13, 2009**

The Washington Health Foundation is pleased to present the Improving Health Through National Health Reform Conference. This exciting event will draw health leaders from around the state and the country. Continuing education credits are available. More information at:

<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Invitation.aspx?e=88c0ed9e-6b79-4fa8-b0f2-9ee4532c6b61>

**American Diabetes Association: Winning at Work - November 18, 2009**

Join the ADA and distinguished guests for an informative and interactive discussion on wellness in the workplace. Access free resources from the ADA, sponsors and health partners. Learn how to detect, prevent and manage diabetes in the workplace. Gain new insights from experts in health promotion and wellness. For more information, contact Lisa Kuhnau at 206-282-4616 ext. 7216 or [lkuhnau@diabetes.org](mailto:lkuhnau@diabetes.org)

**Suggestions or Comments about this Update?**

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Email: diane@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org

Contact Us Form: <http://www.pugetsoundhealthalliance.org/contact.cfm>

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