



**Aligning  
Forces for  
Quality**

A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation National Program

Puget Sound  
**Health Alliance**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

Diane Giese

[diane@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org](mailto:diane@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org)

Phone: 206.448.2570, ext. 117

Fax: 206.448.2574

## **Coalitions from Across the Country Converge in Seattle to Share Strategies for Improving Health Care Quality**

### ***Puget Sound Health Alliance Hosts Participants in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Aligning Forces for Quality Program***

June 20, 2007 (Seattle, Wash.) – The Puget Sound Health Alliance is one of fourteen coalitions from across the country gathering in Seattle this week to swap strategies for improving local health care.

All of the coalitions are committed to doing three things to advance the quality of care provided in doctors' offices, clinics and other outpatient settings: (1) gather health care data to produce reports to the public comparing the effectiveness of care provided by doctors, other clinicians, and hospitals; (2) help health care providers improve their own ability to deliver quality care; and (3) help consumers understand their role in improving their own health and receiving more effective and affordable care.

This nationwide, week-long gathering is the first annual *Healthy Markets, Healthy People: Accelerating Change* meeting, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. All of the coalitions are grantees in the Foundation's three-year, \$14-million *Aligning Forces for Quality* program.

The coalitions will discuss each community's efforts so far, sharing ideas, advice and lessons learned. *Aligning Forces for Quality* grantees are engaged in efforts to improve care for all Americans, especially those with chronic conditions such as diabetes, depression, heart disease and asthma.

- more -



**Aligning  
Forces for  
Quality**

A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation National Program



## **Aligning Forces for Quality Annual Meeting, Page Two**

“Working with a large group of coalitions like the Puget Sound Health Alliance gives us a great opportunity to identify best practices and learn from each others’ experiences,” said Margaret Stanley, executive director of the Puget Sound Health Alliance. “This is essential work that is not easy, and we are honored to be selected by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as the ‘host’ coalition for this important gathering.”

The fourteen coalitions involved in the Foundation’s *Aligning Forces For Quality* program are:

- Puget Sound Health Alliance – Seattle, Wash.
- Greater Detroit Area Health Council – Detroit, Mich.
- Healthy Memphis Common Table – Memphis, Tenn.
- Minnesota Community Measurement – Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn.
- Alliance for Health – Grand Rapids, Mich.
- Community Health Alliance of Humboldt-Del Norte – Eureka, Calif.
- Health Improvement Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati – Cincinnati, Ohio
- Healthy York County Coalition – York, Pa.
- Kansas City Quality Improvement Consortium – Kansas City, Mo.
- Maine Quality Forum – Augusta, Maine
- MetroHealth System – Cleveland, Ohio
- Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation – Portland, Ore.
- P2 Collaborative of Western New York – Buffalo, N.Y.
- Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality – Madison, Wis.

- more -



**Aligning  
Forces for  
Quality**

A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation National Program



## **Aligning Forces for Quality Annual Meeting, Page Three**

**The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change. For more than 30 years the Foundation has brought experience, commitment, and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in your lifetime. For more information, visit [www.rwjf.org](http://www.rwjf.org).

**The Center for Health Improvement** is a national, independent, nonprofit health policy center dedicated to improving population health and encouraging healthy behaviors. CHI uses evidence-based research as the basis for policy innovation and implementation. Since 1995, CHI has partnered with all levels of government, advocacy and community organizations, philanthropic foundations, and educators. For more information, visit [www.forces4quality.org](http://www.forces4quality.org).

**The Puget Sound Health Alliance** is a private, non-profit organization – a team effort of those who provide, pay for and use health care services, working together to improve the quality of patient care for a healthier community, at a price more people can afford. More than 150 organizations from the public and private sectors have joined the Health Alliance, representing almost one million covered individuals. For more information, including a list of participants, go to [www.pugetsoundhealthalliance.org](http://www.pugetsoundhealthalliance.org).

# # #