

Dear Community Member,

While the progress of the Puget Sound Health Alliance continues forward on many fronts, we'd like to hear from YOU to make sure that our work addresses the needs of the community regarding health care quality and affordability. Please take a few minutes and [complete a brief survey](#) to share your opinions about these issues. We encourage you to ask your family, friends and neighbors to also fill out the survey.

Please feel free to share this Community Update with others, to help spread the word about how so many individuals, physicians, employers, hospitals, health plans, health-related associations and others in the local area are working together to improve the quality – the right care in the right place for the right person at the right time – and affordability of health care in this region.

Sincerely,

Margaret Stanley  
Executive Director

### Interest in Alliance Grows in National Policy Circles

Recently, King County Executive Ron Sims and Annette King of Starbucks took the Alliance story to Washington D.C., presenting at the World Health Congress, speaking to a bi-partisan gathering hosted by the Progressive Policy Institute, and meeting with members of Congress. This has generated interest in the Alliance by policy makers across the country. To learn more, see one of the presentations [web-cast by the Kaiser Family Foundation](#), read the [Bureau of National Affairs](#) story about the Alliance, and review the [case study about the Alliance](#) produced by the Progressive Policy Institute.

### Alliance Now Represents Over Three Quarters of a Million Covered People

As the number of organizations in the Alliance grows, the number of people whose health care and coverage will be improved by this work also increases. Over 775,000 people are covered by the nearly 90 organizations that have joined the Alliance so far. Since January, eleven new organizations came on board. Welcome!

- HealthTrans
- Novo Nordisk
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Harrison Medical Center
- Milliman
- Rialto Communications
- Quest Diagnostics
- Sanofi-Aventis
- Washington Health Care Forum
- Aukema & Associates
- Western Washington Medical Group
- Sharon MacTavish, individual

Find out more about [the benefits of joining the Alliance](#) or click here to [join now](#).

## Consumer Advisors

The Board of the Alliance is advised by a dedicated and enthusiastic group of individual health care consumers from the general public who are on the Alliance Consumer Advisory Group. They provide a great sounding board for the Alliance, in addition to providing advice and insight regarding the current experience of receiving health care information, priorities for information that helps with health care decision-making, and ideas for how the consumer experience in health care can be improved.

Seize the opportunity to share your opinions with the Alliance by taking our [consumer survey](#) now.

## Clinical Improvement Teams

Five Clinical Improvement Teams are continuing their work on evidence-based treatment guidelines for heart disease, diabetes, back pain, depression and prescription drugs, respectively. These teams – which are made up of physicians and other health care experts – are not only identifying the best practices care guidelines that will be adopted across the Puget Sound region, but they are also defining the right way to measure the quality of care in the local area (which will be the basis for reports to community), plus specific changes that should be made to improve the quality and affordability of care provided in each of these categories. Ultimately, the key will be the degree to which each of us use this information and other tools to make better health care decisions. The Alliance will work with physicians, hospitals, community members, health plans, employers and others to make changes that improve the value of that our health care system in the Puget Sound region.

## Employment News

The Alliance is accepting applications for the Health Information Technology Director. This fulltime position will support the Health Information & Technology Committee and will report to the Program Director. For more information, contact Lance Heineccius at [lance@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org](mailto:lance@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org)

We are excited to announce that Susie Dade has joined the Alliance as the Director of Quality Improvement. Many may know Susie from her work as the Administrator for Specialty Services at Group Health Cooperative, where she was responsible for overall clinical and financial performance, in addition to customer service, for specialist services. Susie has also held the position of operations manager for the Central Seattle Community Health Centers. We are very fortunate to have Susie on our team.

## Participating Organizations

In addition to the over 100 volunteers on committees and work teams, more than 90 organizations and individuals have joined the Alliance to date (and the number grows each month!). To find out more about becoming an Alliance participant, contact Sean McCliment at 206.448.2570 ([Sean@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org](mailto:Sean@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org))

## Employers & Other Purchasers

- The Boeing Company
- City of Everett
- City of Seattle
- Fisher Communications
- Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce
- King County
- Pierce County
- Port Blakely Companies
- Porter Novelli
- Puget Sound Energy
- Puget Sound Regional Council
- Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI)
- Snohomish County
- Starbucks
- Union Trusts (UFCW/Teamsters Taft-Hartley Group)
- Washington Mutual Bank
- Washington State Health Care Authority

## Health Plans, Networks & TPAs

- Aetna Health Plans of Washington
- Community Health Plan of Washington
- First Choice Health Network
- Group Health Cooperative
- KPS Health Plan
- LifeWise Health Plan of Washington
- PacifiCare Health Systems
- Premera Blue Cross
- Regence BlueShield
- Uniprise (a United Health Group Company)
- Washington Dental Service

## Physicians, Hospitals & Providers

- Bastyr University
- Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center
- Chiropractic Wellness Centers
- DaVita, Inc.
- East Main Family Medicine
- The Everett Clinic
- Evergreen Healthcare
- Harrison Medical Center
- Minor & James Clinic
- Northwest Kidney Centers
- Northwest Physicians Network
- Optimal Health Foundation
- Overlake Surgery Center
- Pacific Medical Centers
- The Polyclinic
- Providence Health System - Washington
- Puget Sound Family Physicians
- Seattle Primary Physicians
- Seattle Surgery Center
- Swedish Medical Center
- UW Medicine
- Virginia Mason Medical Centers
- Visiting Nurse Services of the Northwest
- Washington Managed Imaging
- Western WA Medical Group
- Woodinville Pediatrics

## Individuals

- Feld, Ron RN
- Kievel, Patti
- MacTavish, Sharon
- McIntyre, Megan L.

## **Other Health Related Organizations**

- American Cancer Society
- American Heart Association and American Stroke Association
- American Lung Association of Washington
- Association of Washington Healthcare Plans
- Caremark
- Community Health Innovations, Inc.
- FASCAWS
- The Foundation for Health Care Quality
- Free & Clear
- HealthTrans
- Home Care Association of Washington
- Hope Heart Institute
- Inland Northwest Health Services
- King County Medical Society
- Milliman
- OneHealthPort
- Pacific Hospital Preservation & Development Authority
- Physical Therapy Association of Washington
- Qualis Health
- Quest Diagnostics

- Rialto Communications, LLC
- Snohomish County Medical Society
- Washington Academy of Family Physicians
- Washington Association of Naturopathic Physicians
- Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical Association
- Washington Health Care Forum
- Washington Health Foundation
- Washington State Hospital Association
- Washington State Medical Association
- Washington State Pharmacy Association

## **Pharmaceutical Manufacturers**

- AstraZeneca LLC
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Johnson & Johnson Health Care Systems Inc.
- Novo Nordisk Inc.
- Sanofi-Aventis

*If you have received this Update from a friend, don't forget to sign up to receive these periodic updates directly from the Alliance. Go to [www.pugetsoundhealthalliance.org](http://www.pugetsoundhealthalliance.org) and click on "Sign up for Alliance Updates" on the right side of the homepage.*

Comments about this Update? Contact Diane Giese at [Diane@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org](mailto:Diane@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org).

This is sent to community leaders to share news about recent developments at or of interest to the Puget Sound Health Alliance. To be removed from our list, please contact Sean at [sean@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org](mailto:sean@pugetsoundhealthalliance.org)