

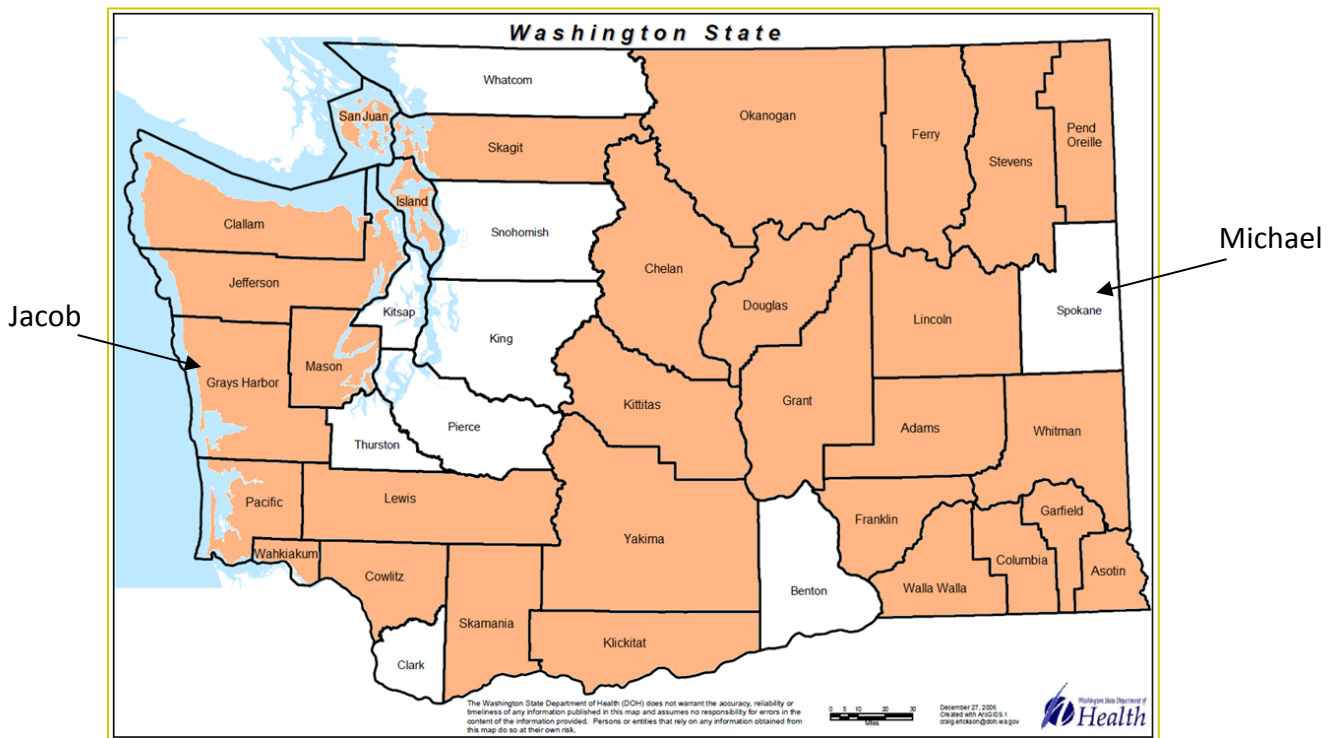
# Rural Health Innovation Accelerator Committee

## Rural Health Problem Statement

The sustainability of rural healthcare delivery depends on fundamental transformation and must consider the unique nature of rural and isolated constituents and scarce resources. The transformation must pragmatically embrace health resource availability and redesign the system with enhanced patient engagement, innovative healthcare interventions and population health strategies, all leveraging modern technology platforms.

### Growing up: Jacob vs. Michael

- Jake’s home town will have fewer kids and more older people than Michael’s.
- Jake’s family will make less money than Mike’s.
- Jake is less likely to graduate high school and even less likely to attend college than Mike.
- Jake is more likely to be unemployed than Mike
- Jake is more likely to become obese, get diabetes, and to smoke than is Mike
- Jake’s family is less likely to have health insurance than Mike’s
- Jake is likely to die younger than Mike



\*County Health Rankings, <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/washington/2016/downloads>

## Current reality of rural healthcare

- There is a lack of primary care physicians.
- Operating margins continue to be very low to negative.
- Electronic medical records are expensive and slow to come to rural communities.
- Tele-medicine remains an unrealized opportunity in most rural areas.
- There is a high reliance on emergency room use.
- It will be a challenge to maintain the current system in the long term.
- There are pockets of innovation, but this is far from universal.

## Discussion questions

- Do we believe that funding innovation can balance the inequality?
- Can we demonstrate leadership in our state, and do we want to serve as a beacon for a national/international problem, and are there alternate funding mechanisms to demonstrate viability in an initially targeted community?
- Do we believe that we should demonstrate initiatives in the next two years, if so where and how?

## Contact information

Gary.swan@hca.wa.gov

