

Accountable Community of Health (ACH) Quarterly Activity Report

Reporting period: July 1–September 30, 2021

Report to Joint Select Committee on Health Care Oversight



Introduction

This report reflects statewide and regional Accountable Community of Health (ACH) activities from July 1 to September 30, 2021. This report shares what ACHs are doing at the community level within and across regions to improve community health in Washington State.

Through their unique role, ACHs connect the health care delivery system and local community organizations. In addition to their Medicaid Transformation Project (MTP) activities, ACHs have been coordinating and supporting COVID-19 response.

Statewide ACH activities

- ACHs are still very involved in COVID-19 response, including hosting vaccine clinics for hard-to-reach populations and communities, supporting testing efforts, participating in Department of Health's (DOH) CareConnect Hub program for individuals and families in isolation/quarantine, and other vital efforts.
- ACHs planning for the future in partnership with the communities they serve. ACHs are conducting strategic planning exercises, community engagement efforts, grant writing, and other activities to determine how to continue to support the health of communities. ACHs are also working closely with the Health Care Authority (HCA) to plan for MTP one-year extension and five-year renewal efforts, which include ACHs.
- ACHs are distributing funds to regional organizations and partners to conduct a host of activities—from health equity work to community-based organization support and social determinants of health.
- ACHs are actively engaged in behavioral health and whole-person care efforts across their regions. This includes participating in multi-sector groups to advance a standard behavioral health integration assessment and installing Naloxone vending machines to address high rates of suicidality in youth.

Individual ACH activities

Better Health Together (BHT)

Serving Adams, Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, and Stevens counties

COVID-19 response

- BHT partnered with several local organizations, including [Latinos en Spokane](#), [The NATIVE Project](#), [Planned Parenthood](#), [Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center](#), and [Spokane Pride](#) to support COVID-19 vaccination efforts. Partners provided 6,800 vaccinations at 46 vaccination clinics and events. The fully vaccinated rates within BHT's six counties increased for all demographics since the project launched in April 2021. The fully vaccinated rate increased for American Indian (AI) and Alaska Natives (AN) from 10 percent to 39 percent, Asian and Pacific Islanders from 9 percent to 40, Black community members from 7 percent to 33, and across all demographics from 17 percent to 47. To support these efforts, BHT invested \$450,000 in MTP funds.
- Starting in February 2021, BHT convened a workgroup of community stakeholders, including Spokane and Mead school districts, Providence, Multicare, NATIVE Project, Unify Community Health, WA School-Based Health Alliance, Kaiser Permanente, and Washington State University (WSU) Spokane to explore ways to support students' primary care using

school-based telehealth services. This fall, a pilot program is launching with CHAS Health, Unify Community Health, and Providence Health Care at nine Spokane School District elementary schools to support acute primary care services. BHT allocated \$360,000 in MTP funds to support this. The group will continue to develop a sustainable funding model, additional point of care tests, and over-the-counter medication management.

- In May, the City of Spokane awarded BHT a \$2 million contract to support Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) community organizations to distribute rental assistance. Several BIPOC lead organizations approached BHT to act as an intermediary in providing financial support to allow smaller community-based organizations the capacity to contract for rental and housing assistance. BHT contributed \$50,000 MTP funds to support BHT's infrastructure to this program and allow all \$2 million to fund partnering organization capacity and maximize rental assistance.

Care coordination

- The COVID-19 Care Coordination Hub (CareConnect Hub, supported by DOH) provided \$217,740 in housing assistance and \$36,941.89 in food assistance to community members experiencing financial hardships while quarantining for COVID-19. The Care Connect Hub has served 1,594 clients since its launch on January 10, 2021.

Sustainability

- BHT has been planning for post-MTP activities over the last two years. This year, BHT is focused on developing strategies that link health care and social determinants of health, embed an equity focus on health system transformation, and further develop access to behavioral health services. This fall, BHT hosted Community Participatory Design sessions, launched with their [Community Voices Council](#) (comprised of Medicaid beneficiaries with lived experience) and [Tribal Partners Leadership Council](#). Additional sessions are with Trusted Messenger, Behavioral Health, Primary Care, and social determinants of health partners.

Cascade Pacific Action Alliance (CPAA)

Serving Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Thurston, and Wahkiakum counties

COVID-19 response

- CPAA is working directly with MTP partners and public health departments across the seven counties in organizing vaccine clinics and conducting focus group discussions to tackle concerns, misinformation, myths, and falsehoods fueling vaccine hesitancy and resistance. CPAA has contracted with additional partners to expand this outreach, targeting more rural areas as well as communities of color.
- CPAA has integrated COVID-19 work with MTP programs and platforms, such as Local Forum and Community CarePort platforms. We plan to make naloxone available at COVID-19 events.
- Our efforts have been augmented by two new grants through CHOICE: \$100,000 from the CDC Foundation to accelerate COVID-19 vaccine uptake in communities of color and a \$973,914 grant to strengthen the community-based organization workforce to help manage the continued pandemic.

Care coordination

- CPAA’s activities through Community CarePort and Washington CareConnect programs remain strong. CPAA continues to put more individuals and families on different pathways to success.
- CPAA is fully engaged and committed to having a strong, effective, and coordinated response to the danger of wildfires. CPAA staff attend and participate on relevant weekly calls and are a regional hub and resource for care packs.

Health equity

- Seventeen partners were selected and are being funded to implement health equity initiatives across the region for a total of \$170,000. CPAA dollars are also being braided with CDC Foundation funds to bring health equity perspective to COVID-19 support in Central Western.
- In September, CPAA launched the “Equity Circle Podcast”, a communication tool for covering a range of issues, including COVID-19 and whole-person care through a health equity lens.
- A workgroup meets weekly to plan for a CPAA Health Equity convening that will take place in December 2021.

Behavioral health

- CPAA continues to facilitate monthly integrated managed care (IMC) workgroup calls.
- CPAA has held several meetings around behavioral health needs in Wahkiakum and Pacific counties with the goal of supporting a pilot mobile clinic.
- CPAA is working to address the high incidence of suicide and suicidality among young people and are planning to implement a Hope Squad program in schools.

Social determinants of health

- CPAA used Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) funding to acquire a 14-seater wheelchair accessible van to help meet transportation needs for rural, hard-to-reach communities. CPAA will deploy this van on MTP outreach activities and in delivering care packages through Community CarePort.
- CPAA funded a feasibility study and preliminary financial model for an outpatient medication-assisted treatment (MAT) facility with an optional pharmacy component for the Chehalis Tribe for \$137,205.

Elevate Health

Serving Pierce County

COVID-19 response

- Elevate Health signed a 2022 contract for DOH Washington CareConnect program as the Regional Hub for COVID-19 Care Coordination response services. During the reporting period, Elevate Health added two new network partners for the Care Connect work: Virginia Mason Franciscan Health (VMFH)/Rainier Health Network (RHN) and Asia Pacific Cultural Center. The network now has a total of six community-based organizations assisting with COVID-19 response.

Care coordination

- Elevate Health received a \$400,000 two-year grant from Common Spirit Health (CSH) for a Pathways Maternity Pilot. The operational plan was completed in collaboration with CSH and VMFH for a pilot launch in quarter 1 of 2022. Contracting for this pilot is underway.
- Elevate Health completed a demonstration of Health Homes protocols with Pierce County Aging and Disability Services. Pierce County is preparing to engage in contract discussions with Elevate Health to join the Innovaccer platform and utilize established workflows.

Health equity

- OnePierce, Elevate Health's community resilience fund, approved a short-term project financing loan of \$800,000 for the development of affordable housing for first-time homeowners.
- OnePierce launched its Behavioral Health Equity Challenge, calling for applications for grants of up to \$50,000 for organizations improving access to behavioral health services or promoting the integration of behavioral health with physical health. It received applications requesting five times the amount of funding available. Awards were announced in November.

Behavioral health

- Elevate Health facilitated collaboration and coordination with six Emergency Management System (EMS) districts to provide community behavioral health crisis education services facilitated by Trueblood co-responders and Pierce County's Mobile Community Intervention Response Team throughout the county (with funding from Cambia Health Foundation).
- Elevate Health participated in launch of Pierce County's Regional System of Care Committee (the planning of which began in 2019). Elevate Health's Sr. Director of Integration and Transformation was appointed to the Regional System of Care Committee (RSCC) Advisory Board.

Social determinants of health

- Elevate Health initiated work with technology partner, Innovaccer, to begin stacking and aggregating social determinant of health data sets with Elevate Health's instance for purposes of descriptive and prescriptive analysis. Prepared first use case.
- Elevate Health has initiated a new podcast production entitled *Community Care Conversations*, which raises awareness around social determinant and health needs. The intent of the podcast lends a voice to collaborative community partnerships promoting wellness in Pierce County.

Greater Columbia ACH (GCACH)

Serving Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Kittitas, Walla Walla, Whitman, and Yakima counties

COVID-19 response

- GCACH is collaborating with Medical Teams International and coordinating with community partners to provide COVID-19 vaccinations, especially in identified "hot spots" (those census tracts with the lowest vaccination rates) within Benton and Franklin counties. To date, 11 events have occurred and 219 people have been vaccinated.

Workforce development

- GCACH was awarded \$146,667 per year for two years for a behavioral health pilot program introduced through legislation; House Bill 1504. This bill aligns closely with the behavioral health preceptorship program that GCACH introduced in June of 2020. Applications for funding will be sent out in early October to community behavioral health providers, with an anticipated program start of January 2022.
- GCACH kicked off its first Community Health Worker (CHW) cohort on August 24. A series of trainings, identified by the partnering provider organizations is being implemented to help CHWs adjust to their working environments and understand their roles within their organizations. Thirteen CHWs have finished the DOH core CHW training and started working in primary care and behavioral health organizations.

Community information exchange (CIE)

- Staff from the HealthierHere presented on their approach to building a CIE for their community at the September Leadership Council meeting. HH shared that CIE is a technology tool that connects the relationship between our social and health care providers. How the CIE will be implemented in GCACH is in the planning stages, but preliminary feedback from the Local Health Improvement Networks suggests smaller regional exchanges as opposed to one regional hub.

Health equity

- GCACH has teamed with the Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce's Inclusion Council and the Rotary Clubs in Benton and Franklin counties to deliver a series of speaking engagements on justice and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). The goal of the project is to determine the level of understanding about DEI in the community.

Community engagement

- The Practice the Pause media campaign officially ended in July; however, GCACH continues to provide trainings and materials to community organizations, schools, and providers. The campaign promoted tools for resilience among all ages with resources grounded in the COPE, CALM, CARE framework developed by Dr. Kira Mauseth, an expert in behavioral health and disaster recovery.

HealthierHere

Serving King County

Whole-person care

- HealthierHere launched a small, shared care plan pilot with HealthPoint as the lead agency and Valley Cities as a partner. The primary activity of the Shared Care Plan Pilot is to test the sharing of patient information across a federally qualified health center (FQHC)-behavioral health agency (BHA) network with a population that includes medically and behaviorally complex individuals to facilitate coordination of care.
- Building on the work of Phase 1, HealthierHere, in collaboration with HCA, all five managed care organizations (MCOs), and ACHs continued to build out the framework for implementing a new statewide tool and strategy for assessing integration among physical and behavioral health providers: the Washington Integrated Care Assessment (WA-ICA).

- Work included soliciting input from providers and relevant representative/professional associations (i.e., Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA), Washington State Medical Association (WSMA), Washington Association for Community Health, Washington Council for Behavioral Health, etc.) on what communication and change management strategies would prove beneficial as the statewide partners make this transition.
- The final report provides a multi-year strategy for ensuring that all eligible physical and behavioral health practices (N > 5000) would be transitioned to the new assessment. Multiple communication tools and guidelines for data management and strategy were included in the final report, which will soon be available on the HCA website.

Care coordination

- Following a highly competitive application process, a review committee of partners and HealthierHere staff selected a collaborative team from Mathematica and Comagine Health to conduct a regional landscape analysis of current care coordination activities and requirements in the King County region.
 - The initial assessment of the current state is an important step toward defining a shared vision for a future system of care coordination that will be responsive to the needs of all people in King County. The landscape analysis will provide insights and opportunities to collectively transform from a fragmented system of sector-specific care coordination to a community-based care coordination model optimized for whole-person care.

CIE

- HealthierHere launched a technology request for proposals (RFP) on August 2 for the CIE. The purpose of this RFP is to identify and select a vendor or vendors to build and operate the Connect2 Community Unified Network Infrastructure (UNI) as a managed service. The UNI will serve as a “network of networks” connecting technology platforms used by organizations participating in the Connect2 Community Network.

Health equity

- HealthierHere invested a total of \$1.1 million in five tribal health care and native-led/native-serving community-based organizations to provide access to traditional medicine. The Traditional Medicines Investment is a decolonized investment approach to wholistic health care that is community centered and culturally relevant. The investment includes an evaluation component to create a pathway for sustainability of traditional medicine as part of the health care system.

North Central ACH (NCACH)

Serving Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Okanogan counties

Whole-person care

- Through recently expanded support by Beacon Health Options, NCACH will now be placing a third naloxone (Narcan®) vending machine in the North Central region to help reduce opioid overdose deaths. This vending machine is expected to be placed next spring at the

Family Health Center in Okanogan, following the installation of the first two machines that will appear by the end of 2021 at sites in Wenatchee and Moses Lake.

- A training in August for 25 emergency department recovery coaches has boosted the number of recovery coaches in North Central Washington to nearly 100 people. Of the 94 currently trained recovery coaches, 16 are presently employed in community-based agencies or clinical organizations in the region. All the coaches also provide voluntary recovery assistance in their communities.

North Sound ACH (NSACH)

Serving Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties

Social determinants of health

- A recent pilot project launched in Skagit Valley to address vulnerable families impacted by the pandemic and provide culturally appropriate and nourishing food to migrant farmworkers and the Latinx community. With support from NSACH, Northwest Agricultural Business Center (NABC), and seven Skagit Valley farmers, 115 families were served with fresh food boxes in September. “The reactions from the families have been phenomenal. They asked if we are doing this every month or every week. They are shocked to see so many of the vegetables that they love to cook with to make traditional sauces, hot sauce or soups,” NABC Project Manager Alex Perez said via email. “The participating farmers are also filled with joy with these projects, they get to share their delicious produce locally with a lot of pride!” NABC and partners worked with farmers in Skagit Valley to select organic produce for the families in need, including peppers, chilies, potatoes, corn, tomatoes, and strawberries.

Whole-person care

- Behavioral and physical health providers have been completing the MeHAF for three years, intended to measure the level of integration of practice and care. During 2021, a work group comprised of ACHs, HCA, and all five MCOs worked collaboratively to recommend steps to advance this assessment process in a consistent manner statewide. After coming to consensus on a tool, six sites piloted the tool, including two that practice in the North Sound region (Skagit Pediatrics and Ideal Option). NSACH chief executive officer and two project managers are on the work group that is recommending how this tool can scale and spread.

COVID-19 response

- In June 2021, NSACH began a COVID-19 vaccine accelerator project sponsored by Kaiser Permanente of Washington. This project leverages the ACH networks across the state and connects them to Medical Teams International’s (MTI) dental, vaccine and testing teams. To date, this project has completed 50 vaccine clinics. In the North Sound region, these clinics have been at food banks, churches, shelters, parking lots, and schools.
- NSACH secured a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) waiver that enabled them to administer and support COVID-19 rapid tests. This effort began following conversations with community partners who were expressing little to no access to COVID-19 tests and community testing options. Now, there are nearly 60 organizations that the ACH team is supporting to stand up their own internal testing programs. The CLIA waiver also allows NSACH to support mobile testing events. We are currently supporting the Tri-

Parish Food Bank, adding drive-thru testing options for the families who come weekly to pick up food.

- A photography project featuring migrant farmworker youth in Skagit Valley has been shown in galleries in New York, Portland, and Seattle, and was featured in the Mexican Consulate's virtual [MEXAM NW Festival](#) on Oct. 7 with some of the youth and NSACH Project Manager Marco Morales. Morales was one of the organizers of the project, along with the students in the Migrant Leaders Club at Mount Vernon High School, [Underground Writing](#) in Mount Vernon, and photographer [Marilyn Montufar](#). "The project bridges photography with youth writing to address how Latinx communities have been deeply impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic due to lack of resources, healthcare accessibility, and language barriers," according to Montufar's interview with the [Frye Museum](#).

Olympic Community of Health (OCH)

Serving Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap counties

Sustainability

- The Board of Directors for OCH adopted a new [five-year strategic plan](#) in September. Key elements of the plan include:
 - Value Proposition: Stronger Together: Foster a region of healthy people, thriving communities.
 - Overarching Goal: Improve individual and population health and advance equity by addressing the determinants of health.
 - Focus areas for 2022-2026: Long-term, affordable, quality housing; Access to the full spectrum of care; Individual needs are met timely, easily, and compassionately; Reduced substance misuse and abuse.

Community engagement

- In August, OCH brought partners together for an opportunity to connect on [lessons learned and to discuss future opportunities around value-based payments](#). Regional partners from hospitals, primary care, behavioral health, and community-based organizations were joined by representatives from HCA, Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW), Coordinated Care, United Healthcare, and Molina Healthcare for a collaborative and open conversation about challenges and possibilities.
- This summer, OCH staff visited with [implementation partners](#), both virtually and in-person, to [hear how partners continue to go above and beyond for the health of their communities](#). By listening to partner experiences, successes, and challenges, and fostering relationships with partner staff, OCH can cater upcoming activities and opportunities to the unique needs of the region.

Whole-person care

- OCH took a [targeted universalism approach to addressing local behavioral health needs](#). OCH engaged [implementation partners](#) to embark on an activity of their choice to support the local behavioral health needs of their communities, going above and beyond their standard efforts. The region has the benefit of caring, dedicated, and talented partners addressing both long-standing and current behavioral health needs. OCH intentionally provided partners with the freedom to get creative and think outside the box to best cater projects to the needs of their clients and communities while maximizing strengths.

SWACH

Serving Clark, Klickitat, and Skamania counties

Health equity

- SWACH contributed \$120,000 to Community Foundation for Southwest Washington's Social Justice and Resiliency Fund. These funds will support 1) capacity-building for organizations to invest in equity work and address the disparities within their organization and/or programming, 2) investments in organizations focused on systemic change, policy, and advocacy efforts; and/or, 3) operating support for organizations led by BIPOC, culturally specific organizations and coalitions seeking to reimagine the systems they work in. A member of SWACH staff is participating in the grants review committee.
- SWACH staff finalized its proposed Racial Justice Plan based on organizational equity assessment to be reviewed by its Board of Trustees in December.
- SWACH staff completed training series/facilitated discussion on white dominant culture as well as continued engaging in equity discussions as part of its monthly book club.

Behavioral health

- SWACH supported the Trueblood Collaboration Taskforce. This includes a separate shared learning and integration meeting for direct service providers across Trueblood contracted and state agencies. This allows for direct service partners to bring individual issues and cases for staffing with partners across agencies.
- SWACH collaborated with its partners to apply for and received \$162,000 Beacon COVID-19 block grant funds to implement five naloxone vending machines.
- Supported development of a co-responder model for behavioral health crisis response to include community paramedicine and connection to community care coordination supports.

COVID-19 response

- SWACH was awarded \$1 million HRSA grant focused on local community-based workforce to increase COVID-19 vaccine access. Implementation of this project began in August.
- Between July 1 and September 30, HealthConnect received 881 household referrals for the Care Connect WA (CCW) program needing COVID-19+ supports.
 - Referral follow ups connected community-based workers to approximately 3,500 COVID-19 impacted individuals.
 - HealthConnect Hub provided 376 households with \$439,529.47 in household assistance and 414 grocery orders worth \$80,657.73 in fresh food orders in Clark County. Klickitat and Skamania counties community health workers served households with over \$10,000 in fresh food orders.