



Accountable Communities of Health

An Accountable Community of Health (ACH) is a regional coalition consisting of representatives from a variety of sectors, working together to improve population health. There are nine ACHs in the state. They serve as vital partners within the Healthier Washington initiative. ACHs work to strengthen collaboration, develop and implement regional health improvement efforts, and provide feedback to state agencies about their regions' health needs and priorities. They are guided by the notion that health is more than health care, it is the total well-being of people, families and communities. They focus on issues that affect health, such as education, income, housing, and access to care.

How can an ACH lead to a healthier Washington?

By increasing community-based-collaboration, ACHs are bringing together resources and activities that improve whole person health and wellness. They are tackling large and complex issues such as health equity, innovative payment models and regional health improvement.

ACHs are serving a key role in supporting regional and statewide initiatives such as:

- Supporting practitioners as they join the movement toward whole person care
- Implementing a new payment model, value-based purchasing – a payment model that rewards whole-person care
- Capturing, and using data to ensure health care transformation is based on facts, and that people in all regions benefit from these changes

ACH Regions Map



Okanogan and Klickitat are transitional counties based on Medicaid regional service areas.

Where are the ACHs located?

The nine ACH regions align with the state's Medicaid regional service areas.

Are all ACHs the same?

All ACHs work within certain basic expectations regarding governance, engagement and decision-making. They share the same general purpose, have a governance structure, and they are all key partners in statewide initiatives such as the Medicaid Transformation Demonstration.

Each ACH differs based on regional factors such as:

- Population density, distribution and diversity
- Geography and weather
- Transportation issues
- Local economies
- Health challenges

These differences are reflected in each ACH's governance structure, community and regional partners, and the projects each ACH undertakes in response to their region's unique health concerns.

Who governs the ACHs?

The ACH governance structure brings together multiple workgroups or committees, with a subset of participants holding final decision-making authority. Through this inclusive and dynamic process, community and health experts can diagnose local health care challenges, agree upon regionally appropriate strategies, then work together to achieve specific, measurable improvements.

In many cases, the organizations that stepped forward to apply for the initial "Community of Health" planning grant in July 2014 is now the contracted entity, providing their ACHs with staff and administrative support. For some ACHs, this entity is a local public health agency; for others, it is a non-profit organization with a history of regional health reform.

As the ACH project has evolved over the last two years, many ACHs are setting up new organizations, or partnering with existing groups to ensure the multi-sector, community-led process continues into the future.

How are ACHs involved in the Medicaid Transformation Demonstration?

ACHs in all regions are working on regionally selected Demonstration projects that will transform the Apple Care (Medicaid) delivery system by 2021. Supporting the projects, and the entire Demonstration, is a redesigned payment system, called Value-based Payment (VBP). This is a new way of paying for care that encourages and enables health care providers to join in health care transformation.

Demonstration projects focus on foundational changes:

- Building stronger, more flexible and resilient health systems
- Redesigning care delivery
- Promoting ways to prevent illness and disease
- Adopting VBP to reward providers for quality of care rather than the number of services and procedures provided

Find more information on the Medicaid Transformation web page:

<http://hca.wa.gov/about-hca/healthier-washington/transformation-projects>

What is the best way to become involved with ACHs?

Find contact information for all the ACHs on the Healthier Washington web page, below.

Website: <http://hca.wa.gov/about-hca/healthier-washington/accountable-communities-health-ach>

Email: CommunityTransformation@hca.wa.gov
