



GCACH report



Semi-Annual Report 6.0 - GCACH Receives 100% Score

Written by Haydee Hill, Director of Finance and Contracts

Greater Columbia ACH received approval for achievement of the Medicaid Transformation Project milestones for the reporting period July 1-December 31, 2020. Based on Myers and Stauffer completed independent assessment of semi-annual reports (SAR 6) submitted in January 2021, Greater Columbia ACH was found to have completed all required milestones for Project Incentives. GCACH scored 100% on P4R Deliverables and Milestones and 100% on VBP P4R Milestones. Related funding amounts are shown below and the anticipated payment date is June 2021.

Demonstration Year 4 (July 1 – December 31, 2020) Project Incentive Funds Earned

Table 1. Total P4R Project Incentives Earned by Project

Greater Columbia ACH			
Project	Total AVs Achieved	Maximum Possible AVs	Incentives Earned
Potential Project Plan Incentives			\$3,404,499
Domain 2: Care Delivery Redesigns			
2A: Bi-directional Integration of Physical and Behavioral Health through Care Transformation	9	9	\$1,911,298
2C: Transitional Care	8	8	\$776,465
Domain 3: Prevention and Health Promotion			
3A: Addressing the Opioid Use Crisis	9	9	\$238,912
3D: Chronic Disease Prevention and Control	8	8	\$477,824
Total	34	34	\$3,404,499

Demonstration Year 4 (Q1-Q4) VBP P4R Incentive Funds Earned

Table 2. Total VBP P4R Incentives Earned Demonstration Year 4 (Q1 – Q4)

Greater Columbia ACH	
	Total
Value Based Payment Incentives	\$ 150,000

Congratulations! Thank you GCACH Team and to all our providers for working hard and partnering with us with one vision - "Advancing the health of our population." Excellent work, everyone!

Leadership Council - Digital Clinical Community Linkages and SDOH

Written by Wes Luckey, Deputy Director

Care coordination is one of the principle “change concepts” of the Patient-Centered Medical Home process and presents opportunities that reduce barriers to care. Practices that are effective at care coordination are able to effectively build effective “clinical-community linkages,” which are collaborations between health care practitioners in clinical settings and programs based in the community—both working to improve the health of people and the communities in which they live.

Effective clinical-community linkages connect health care providers and community-based organizations, as well as organizations like public health agencies, housing authorities, transportation services and more, so they can collectively improve access to preventive and chronic care services as well as services that address the social determinants of health (e.g. affordable housing). Building and maintaining such linkages is critical for improving overall population health.

To help facilitate this work, within the last several years, an increasing array of new technology platforms have emerged with the shared aim of enabling health care organizations to more easily identify (screen) and direct (refer) patients to community-based organizations. These platforms offer a varying degree of services and features and levels of integration within the patient record. However, whichever platform a community chooses to adopt, it must serve and overlay the care pathways the community deems important; the technology must be in service to existing patient needs at the local level rather than being a solution looking for a problem.

At the this month’s Leadership Council meeting, the goal is to explore digital clinical-community linkages. Michael Arnis and Chase Napier from Health Care Authority will describe the elements of electronic community information exchanges (CIEs) and HCA’s vision for CIEs in the future. We will also hear from staff from Elevate Health, the ACH serving Pierce County, who will discuss their real-world experience with implementing a sophisticated CIE. And we will have the opportunity to hear from the audience regarding their thoughts around this technology and how it can link-in community-based organizations.

Learning Collaborative – Social Determinants of Health

Written by the Practice Transformation Team

This learning collaborative is designed to assist practice transformation sites in screening and addressing Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) needs in the clinical setting. A recent publication estimates that SDOH issues are responsible for up to 40 percent of all preventable deaths in the United States. This will be an interactive learning collaborative that will have discussions, polls, and break- out rooms. To prepare, we ask that participating organizations bring any screening tools and resource lists they have to share. If an organization has SDOH needs or challenges related to this work, please feel free to email those to Laurel (lavila@gcach.org) or Brittany (bfoxstading@gcach.org) ahead of time.

During the learning collaborative, organizations will get to learn about best practices, tools to use, and resources available for SDOH. We are excited to utilize our collective experience and knowledge to find some solutions to identify and address needs associated with the SDOH. We look forward to participation at the SDOH Learning Collaborative on Friday, April 30, 2021 at 2pm.

Local Health Improvement Network Update

Written by Brissa Perez, Community and Tribal Engagement Specialist

As a result of a successful ongoing partnership with Local Health Improvement Networks (LHIN) Leaders and Third-Party Administrators (TPA) in the Greater Columbia region, GCACH has renewed its 2021 contracts with these two groups.

With the help and support of LHINs, GCACH will continue funding efforts that tackle issues affecting the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH). SDOH priorities were identified by each Local Health Improvement Network through a process, which included consumer input. Third-party administrators will continue administering funds and identifying and funding organizations that will address the chosen SDOH priorities. GCACH plans to distribute \$1.4 million from its Community Health Fund, created to mitigate the effects of adverse social determinants of health in our region's population.

We look forward to our continued partnership with LHIN's and TPA's and to the great work that will be accomplished in 2021.

Practice Transformation Site Highlight

Written by Brittany FoxStading, Practice Transformation Navigator



This month we would like to recognize Palouse Medical in Pullman. Pullman has been a hot spot for COVID-19, and with this unique challenge, Palouse Medical worked with their community to help address the crisis with a pandemic recovery task force that included multiple community members. They first started with testing sites and then by the first of the year had mass vaccinations sites. By January 14 they had all long-term care facilities vaccinated, which was ahead of schedule by more than a month. By March 1 over 62% of eligible individuals within Whitman county had received at least one vaccine dose. This included individuals in phase 1A tiers 1 and 2, and phase 1B tiers 1 and 2. Palouse Medical has had vaccination clinics ready when vaccines arrived and has been able to give up to 1,000 vaccines per day when available.

This successful community effort has included support from Sel Health Clinic, Pullman Regional Hospital, Palouse Medical, Whitman Hospital, Sids Pharmacy, Safeway Pharmacy, WSU staff and volunteer staff, and Whitman County Public Health. We greatly appreciate the hard work and dedication shown by all of Whitman County to help vaccinate their community to stop COVID-19. Thank you!

Practice the Pause

Written by Carol Moser, Executive Director

Bere Garcia didn't miss a beat when she found out her Zoom audience of school counselors was actually a class of 6-year olds. The Cope, Calm, Care trainer went into therapy mode to lead Bubble Breathing, and Grow and Scunch muscle relaxation exercises. The Cope, Calm, Care (C3) campaign was successfully launched and seven pallets of printed campaign-related materials are making their way across the GCACH region. Highland School District shared the materials with every single family during its parent-teacher conferences. Cynthia Rinker, School Counselor for West Valley School District wrote about the accessibility of the materials and its effectiveness for their students. Whitman County Suicide Prevention and Resiliency Task Force is spreading the campaign's message to schools, churches, senior centers and youth groups.



Brissa Perez, Community and Tribal Engagement Specialist for GCACH is making the circuit on Spanish radio, doing live interviews, and Robi Nelson, project manager for the C3 campaign bantered with KIT radio hosts in Yakima.

"It's really about finding skills for managing emotions and building resilience," said Annie Pillers, member of the Whitman Resiliency Task force, "which is right where we need to be as a community." "Talking about mental health reduces the stigma among Spanish speaking populations," noted Brissa during her radio interviews.

Community Health Worker Internship Program

Written by Diane Halo, Program Director

GCACH had a Technical Assistance webinar on Tuesday, March 30th regarding its Community Health Worker (CHW) Internship program. Information about the webinar can be found on the GCACH Website at www.gcach.org/resources, including the PowerPoints, questions, sample job descriptions, application, and program information.

GCACH is allocating \$850,000 to support its CHW Internship Program! This funding will give our providers an opportunity to employ a CHW in their organization for an 18-month period starting in July 2021. We have worked closely with the GCACH Workforce Committee, comprised of professionals from the Department of Health, South Central Workforce Development Council, and Employment Security Department- to inform the development of the program.

Applications are due Friday, April 16th by noon. Please submit your completed applications to Diane Halo (dhalo@gcach.org). Click here or the button below for the program information.

Washington's Health Workforce Sentinel Network

Written by Washington Sentinel Network

Do you have enough health care workers with the skills you and your patients need? How has COVID-19 impacted your ability to provide health care in your region of the state?

GCACH is offering \$100 to providers who complete the latest Health Network Sentinel Network survey. Please find the survey here: www.wa.sentinelnetwork.org/join.

Your feedback is critical and confidential

Details you provide, including recruitment challenges, are confidential so you can share information freely and securely. Don't let your health workforce needs go unaddressed.

The Sentinel Network: Making a difference

Washington's health care providers are able to quickly and regularly communicate their needs through the Sentinel Network's simple, online questionnaire. Twice a year this information is collected and pushed out to key policymakers, educators, and other stakeholders.

Policymakers are paying attention

The Sentinel Network is funded by the Legislature, and it's clear policy makers are paying attention to this tool. For example, information provided by you and your colleagues since the Sentinel Network launched in 2016 has helped healthcare training programs invest in promising workforce pathways. Sentinel Network information also helped the state craft regulatory changes to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

See what other Sentinels are saying at findings dashboard, policy briefs and COVID-19 findings pages.

Questions? Contact us at: healthworkforce@wasentinelnetwork.org or (206) 543-9797.

Washington's Sentinel Network is a collaboration of the state's Workforce Board and the University of Washington's Center for Health Workforce Studies and is a program of Washington's Health Workforce Council. Funding to initiate the Sentinel Network came from the Healthier Washington initiative, with ongoing support from Governor Inslee's office and the Washington Legislature.

Special Use Permit for Pasco Haven Approved!

Written by Carol Moser, Executive Director

We are excited to report that the special use permit for Pasco Haven, the permanent supportive housing complex that is to be located at the southeast corner of West Lewis Street and South 20th Avenue in Pasco, was approved by the Pasco Hearings Examiner on March 29. Pasco Haven will be a 60 resident, four-story 55-foot tall building that will include office space for service providers on the ground floor, single-occupancy residential units on the floors above, 44 parking spaces, and perimeter fencing.

According to the Findings of Fact, multiple comments voiced support for the proposal and there were no opposition comments.

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Owned and operated by nonprofit Catholic Housing Services of Eastern Washington, the permanent supportive housing project will primarily serve individuals who have experienced chronic homelessness, chronic mental illnesses, or extreme poverty. There will be up to three property management/maintenance team members on site, trained/equipped to manage and respond to resident needs. Residents will be provided with 24/7 access to an emergency call number. There is will also be on-site access to services including peer-support, dually licensed behavioral health and substance abuse counselors, fresh food options and case management. Besides on-site services, other organizations are partnered with to provide access to primary healthcare, employment support, and other support services.

Buildings will incorporate principles of trauma-informed design. Design elements will include wider hallways, more open spaces and increased natural lighting to create an environment conducive to recovering from the trauma of homelessness.

Residents must sign a lease agreement as a residency condition. The agreement addresses unit cleanliness, visitor requirements, quiet hours, and other issues. The agreement prohibits marijuana use and illegal drugs. Residents must commit to a good neighbor agreement with standards of conduct applying within two miles of the site. If a resident's behaviors contradict their lease/good neighbor agreement within two miles of the complex, the response is will be formulated as if the behavior occurred on site. On-site facilities will promote activities such as basketball, community gardens, and recreation activities.

The site plan considers a future bus stop along-side Pasco Haven - Lewis Street frontage since most of the residents will rely on public transportation, and there will be at least ten feet of landscaping on all sides of the property.

Welcome Damia Safford, GCACH Office Manager

Written by Chelsea Chapman, Business Development Manager

Welcome to the GCACH team! Before GCACH, Damia Safford was a Senior Administrator with over ten years' experience as an adult Educator, Coordinator and Administrator in a variety of settings. This includes Health Care, Business Operations, Contracts and Funding. Damia received the majority of her experience by on the job training programs, but also had the wonderful opportunity to attend classes at Chabot College, Cal State Eastbay and American Continental University pursuing a Business Administration degree in Organizational Behavior. When she is not working, Damia truly enjoys crafting, decorating, studying home organization hacks, cooking African/Caribbean recipes and spending time with her family.



Welcome, Damia!