



North Central Accountable Community of Health

November, 2017



An update from the Executive Director, Linda Evans Parlette

I have been spending my time catching up on the many emails and presentations that I missed while caring for my husband since May. I will take a “point of personal privilege” during the November board meeting to share a bit more.

How does one get through such a stressful time during a period of many NCACH deadlines, increased workload, and multiple changes? You rely on staff and in my case, the Board Chair. Barry stepped in, at my request to fill in many of the gaps I created. I am extremely grateful. I am back “in the saddle” as my late husband would say, and am comforted by the continual support of staff, board members, and community. Planning Bob’s November 20th, “Celebration of Life” and the party he wanted to follow gives me joy.

The NCACH staff has been working hard to form workgroups to gather data and community input for writing the project plans. I will continue to attend those workgroups. I am so appreciative of the attendance from volunteers from all four counties in our region.

As you know, on January 1, 2018, all Medicaid contracts will be fully integrated for medical and behavioral health care in Chelan, Douglas, and Grant counties. Many thanks to Christal Eshelman, our NCACH lead staff, for working with many for shepherding 3 of our counties through the process with oodles of meeting. Thanks also to Isabel Jones and Alice Lind – two star Health Care employees as well as Tamara Caldwell Burns and staff at the Behavioral Health Organization (BHO). As a side note, we learned on October 23rd, that Okanogan County will become a middle adopter on January 1, 2019, joining all but two ACH regions across the state. We all know that financial integration is not the same as clinical integration so there will be a lot of continued work to do as we move toward 2020. Christal is looking forward to having more time now, as the NCACH lead on the OPIOID project and the HUB.

November 16th is the deadline for the preliminary project plan application to be submitted. We look forward to meeting that deadline, enjoying the Thanksgiving holiday, and then moving full speed ahead beginning in December where we can focus on delving deeper into project planning.

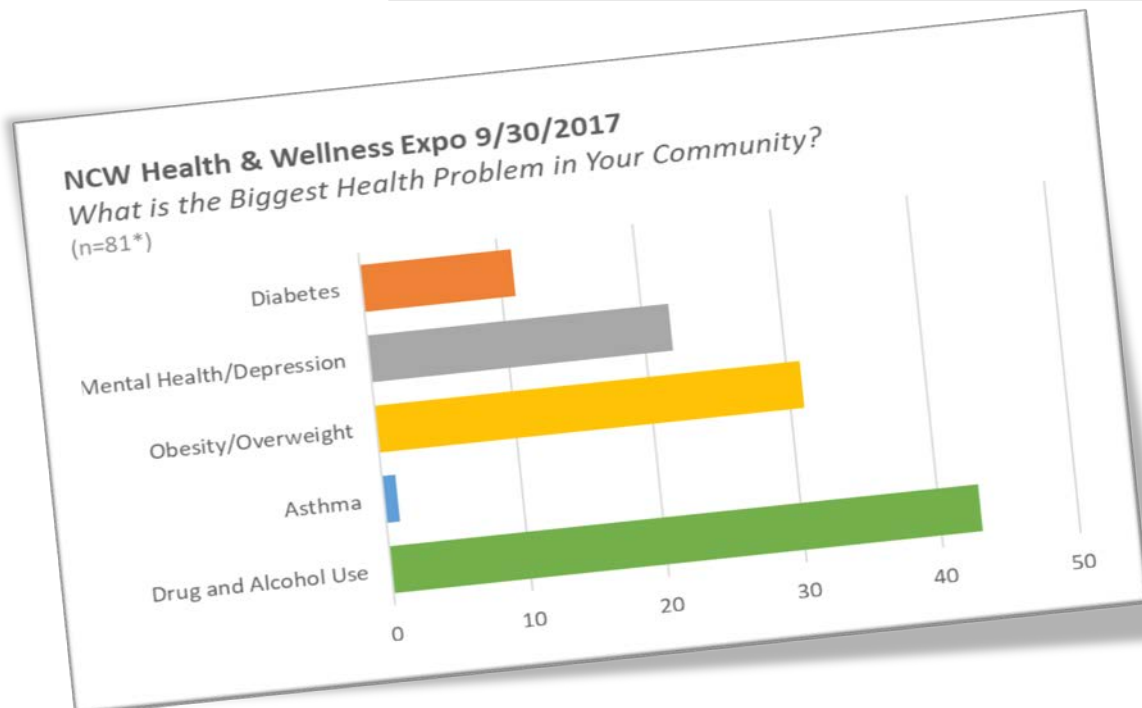
Lastly, Alison White, Executive director of Better Health Together, surprised me with T Shirts for all of the ACH Executive Directors at a meeting we had near SeaTac recently. Alison is missing from this picture, but you will see that she liked the tag line I used while serving as senator from the 12 Legislative District. What she doesn’t know is that I was also known as the 12th Woman! I thought you would enjoy the picture (shown in staff update section).

Charge On!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

John and Christal attended the North Central Washington Health and Wellness Expo in Moses Lake at the end of September. We asked the community “What is the Biggest Health Problem in Your Community?”

Similar to the other two events we attended in Wenatchee and Grand Coulee, the highest response was Drug and Alcohol Use followed by Obesity. It was a great opportunity to interact with the community and fun to see so many of our Grant County partners!



BOARD SPOTLIGHT



Congrats to Winnie Adams!

Our own Board Member Winnie Adams travelled to Arizona to attend her graduation from Grand Canyon University. Winnie received a Double Master's in Nursing Leadership and Business Administration, which she completed online.

Winnie will be leaving our Board as she has accepted a position with Coordinated Care. We are sad to see her go and will miss her presence at meeting table, but have comfort in knowing that we will be working closely with her in the years to come.

NCACH Governing Board Members

Barry Kling – Chair

Kevin Abel – Vice Chair

Sheila Chilson – Treasurer

Winnie Adams – Secretary

Bruce Buckles

Molly Morris

Kayla Down

Nancy Nash-Mendez

Ray Eickmeyer

Tyler Paris

Jesus Hernandez

Theresa Sullivan

Tim Hoekstra

Senator Judith Warnick

Brooklyn Holton

Doug Wilson

Rick Hourigan

Mike Beaver

NCACH Staff Update

The NCACH Staff along with Board Chair Barry Kling had an all day retreat on October 20th. We had a very productive day to help with project planning. Thank you to Lake Chelan Community Hospital for the use of the meeting room. After the retreat, NCACH Board member Ray Eickmeyer gave John, Christal, Caroline and Teresa a tour of the hospital. Below...John and Christal are pictured with Ray in one of the Lake Chelan Community ambulances.



Charge On!

John Schapman

As we move into project implementation planning, I have been working with teammates to connect with our Coalitions for Health Improvement to provide data to members who can then provide additional recommendations to better refine target populations. As well, our team has engaged in monthly meetings with the MCOs in our region and held our first meeting on October 3rd. Moving into detailed project planning, our team looks forward to both these critical partnerships.

Internally, I have been working with teammates to interview candidates for the New Program Development Position. We have had more applicants than we anticipated and have completed a number of interviews. The goal is to have this process completed by the end of November 2017. As well, all NCACH staff have also been working hard to finalize the project plan application submissions. HCA made some last minute changes in the submission requirements that has created some additional meetings between state partner and the ACH project leads that I have attended, but the great partnership with the state helped all partners come together to create a better submission process. As we get closer to November 16th, I will be spending most days editing the application for final submission.

Christal Eshelman

We are two months away from FIMC Go-Live for Chelan, Douglas, and Grant Counties! And, Okanogan County Commissioners sent a letter of intent to become a Mid-Adopter on January 1, 2019! This means that on January 1, 2019, all four of the counties in North Central ACH will have integrated Medicaid contracts for physical and behavioral health.

While there were no Fully-Integrated Medicaid Contracting Advisory Committee meetings in October, the work to prepare for integration continues through the Workgroups and individualized technical assistance with our five Behavioral Health (BH) providers. Xpio is continuing to work closely with the BH providers to prepare their IT and billing systems for integration. We have initiated bi-weekly conference calls with Xpio and the Health Care Authority (HCA) to keep updated on progress of this work.

The Consumer Engagement Workgroup has picked back up after a lull in August and September. We now have a ½ page flyer of the “Things to know about changes to Washington Apple Health” that is available in our four most common languages (English, Spanish, Russian, and Ukrainian). We also have a one-pager that includes a table explaining how enrollees can expect to get care after integration. These materials were created by HCA upon request from the Workgroup. Workgroup members are distributing these materials to various coalitions and organizations to be available for providers and enrollees when needed. For digital copies or to request printed copies of these materials, please contact me at: christal.eshelman@cdhd.wa.gov.

Last month, the Governing Board approved the Early Warning System indicators that will be used in conjunction with regular communication of the providers, MCOs, and HCA to quickly identify issues during the first six months of integration. We are now working with the AIM team at HCA during bi-weekly conference calls to identify the processes to be used to regularly collect, analyze, and report the data.

The Regional Opioid Stakeholders Workgroup is starting to form. The NCACH Executive Committee carefully selected Workgroup members to ensure board regional and sector representation. The first Workgroup meeting was held on October 27th. This meeting included background information on Healthier Washington and the Medicaid Transformation Demonstration, the goals of the Workgroup, project timelines, a preview of regional opioid data, and the beginning draft of a regional opioid initiative matrix. It is fun to work with such a motivated and passionate group of people. I am excited for the coming months where we will be shaping the project plans and bringing forth recommendations to the Governing Board.

Caroline Tillier

As we approach the November 16th project application deadline, we've all been spending a lot of time this month looking at data, community feedback, and talking through preliminary target populations and evidence-based approaches. At the end of September, Christal and I attended the Okanogan CHI meeting and I attended the Grant County CHI meeting on October 10th. We were on the agendas to provide their membership an overview of data as it links to our region's 6 projects. We have received great initial feedback from all three CHIs on the evidence-based approaches and target populations, including requests for additional data. I look forward to supporting the CHIs with additional data they might want to explore, and we will keep sharing their feedback with all of our project workgroups as they continue project planning over the next 8 months. Our team also took a road trip to Seattle to attend a full-day working session with all ACHs and HCA. The primary focus of the session was to articulate a shared data strategy framework as we dive into practical questions we (all ACHs) are eager to answer (e.g. what metrics we will need to collect for pay for reporting, existing data sources for those data, new collection mechanism ACHs will need to put in place, proxy metrics for tracking on going progress, etc.) We just scratched the surface and there will be more of these ACH-wide conversations as we work to identify solutions by the end of 2017.

And last but not least, we had our first meetings with the Transitional Care/Diversion Interventions workgroup and the Opioid workgroup at the end of October – an exciting milestone! With certification requirements behind us, we're finally turning theory into action. I supported Christal and John by pulling together existing data that can help workgroup members understand where we're at, and where we might have the most impact. We look forward to working with community partners in all 4 counties to come up with project implementation plans.

Peter Morgan

During the past period, we've finalized and initial contract with the consulting groups of CCMI & CSI for the design portion of the Learning Collaborative for the Whole Person Care and have been working on getting the initial meeting organized and scheduled and also scheduling a few site visits with a sample of our members. This is where the work will begin to get real and we move from the conceptual to the operational level of the project. Under John Schapmann's direction, I am also working on my sections of the project proposal covering projects 2a (bi-directional behavioral and physical health integration) and 3d (chronic disease management) to ensure the work of the WPCC meets the project requirements set out by the Health Care Authority.

As a part time employee, I'm trying to stay up to speed on ongoing HCA requirements and processes as they affect the WPCC while relying on Sen. Parlette and the other staff to do the heavy lifting. Nevertheless, I did attend the HCA's "Commitment to Value" conference in Seattle on October 18 & 19 and Qualis' conference in Moses Lake on Whole Person Care on October 26th. Both provided information useful to our work and a chance to network with colleagues from the HCA and other ACHs.

I also managed to get in 10 days of vacation, which meant a lot to me.

NCACH Upcoming Meetings

November	Meeting	Time	Location	City/State
6th	Whole Person Care Collaborative Meeting	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Confluence Technology Center	Wenatchee, WA
6th	NCACH Governing Board Meeting	1:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Confluence Technology Center	Wenatchee, WA
29th	Fully-Integrated Medicaid Contracting Advisory Committee	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Confluence Technology Center	Wenatchee, WA

December	Meeting	Time	Location	City/State
4th	Whole Person Care Collaborative Meeting	11:00 AM - 1:00PM	Confluence Technology Center	Wenatchee, WA
4th	NCACH Governing Board Meeting	1:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Confluence Technology Center	Wenatchee, WA
6th	Okanogan Coalition of Health Improvement	TBA	Okanogan Behavioral Health	Okanogan, WA



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