

**WA Health Alliance
eValue8™ Report**

Opportunities for health plan improvement and Coalition services that can help, page 2.

**Anchorage Mat-Su
Community Plan**

Aetna and the Coalition partner to bring high quality, lower cost health care to larger community, page 3.

Proven Health Care Cost Reduction Through Strength in Numbers

ALASKA FRACTURE & ORTHOPEDIC CLINIC SIGNS PPO AGREEMENT WITH COALITION

The Alaska Fracture & Orthopedic Clinic (AFOC), a group that has a 50-year track record for “setting the standard for orthopedic care in Alaska,” has joined the Pacific Health Coalition as a preferred provider (PPO).

“We see the Pacific Health Coalition as an organization that takes care of the people who build Alaska, who teach our kids and keep our towns running. Being in a PPO agreement with the Coalition just deepens our involvement with the community as a whole,” said AFOC’s CEO Brandon Ousley.

Care Designed for Alaskans

AFOC has the expertise, experience and technology to take care of

every joint and bone in your body, from ankle to neck and everything in between. The clinic also offers sports medicine and treats orthopedic trauma resulting from accidents and workplace injuries.

The staff includes 13 physicians, 10 physician assistants, 10 therapists and two massage therapists, two athletic trainers and a nurse practitioner. “Our people are hard-working and caring. They are eager to welcome the new patients that the Coalition will allow us to reach,” Ousley said.

AFOC has two locations, one in Anchorage and another in Eagle River. A third location will open in South Anchorage in October.

Learn More About AFOC and Preferred Providers

Preferred provider agreements are just one way the Coalition works to provide high quality care at a lower cost for its members. Member plans may contract with one or more of these providers. “Because the annual price escalator for these contracts is fixed, the net price of services will remain controlled despite retail price increases,” explained Coalition Executive Director, Fred Brown. “Member plans pay an access fee to the PHC based on utilization.”

For more information about AFOC, visit its website: <https://www.afoc.com/>. To learn more about using its services, contact the Coalition at info@phcoalition.org. □

2018 Report Identifies Opportunities

The Washington Health Alliance's eValue8™ tool helps provide insights into how well health plans in Washington State measure up in providing quality and value in three key areas in health care: 1) reducing overuse, 2) reducing underuse, and 3) reducing cost.

The eValue8™ 2018 Report, published in March 2019, identifies common areas of improvement for most or all of the health plans who participated. Here is a summary and examples of how the Coalition's services can help.

Improve the patient/member experience:

1. Help individuals effectively understand and use their benefits
2. Share easy-to-use information on provider quality and prices
3. Offer web-based, in-person, and telephone support
4. Improve access to care, self-management and member convenience through telehealth and web-based applications

Coalition services that can help include the [Coalition Health Centers](#) (in Anchorage and Fairbanks) and [Aetna's Teladoc](#) service.

Effectively use health plan contracting and payment to drive higher value:

1. Increase use of value-based payments to providers, including shared risk

The eValue8™ 2018 Report, identifies common areas of improvement towards three goals for health care: 1) reducing overuse, 2) reducing underuse, and 3) reducing cost. The Coalition services help health plans reach and exceed these goals every day.

2. Ensure robust and transparent measurement of health care value and align with state and nationally vetted measure sets
3. Use measurement results in feedback reporting to providers and to steer referrals to higher value providers
4. Manage specialty medications

Coalition services that can help include the [Coalition's PPO Agreements](#), the [BridgeHealth Surgery Benefit](#) and [pharmacy benefit management services](#).

Improve outreach to engage members and improve health:

1. Use information like cancer screening and immunization rates, data on evidence-based care and self-management for chronic illness to close gaps in care
2. Identify members with depression, substance abuse, obesity, tobacco and nicotine use; broaden interventions to engage members in related programs

3. Improve network adequacy of and access to behavioral health services

Coalition services that can help include the [annual Health Fairs](#), [Aetna's Teladoc for virtual behavioral health care](#), and [disease management](#).

Reduce potentially avoidable care and overuse:

1. Ensure provider contracting includes performance expectations to reduce the rate of C-sections and avoidable hospital readmissions
2. Use health plan information and case management to help patients avoid re-hospitalization
3. Dissuade members from using the ER for care that could be delivered through primary or urgent care
4. Implement strategies and payment incentives to reduce use of procedures known to be overused and build overuse metrics into value-based contracting

Coalition services that can help include [dialysis cost containment](#), [disease management](#), [Aetna's nurse managers](#), the [annual Health Fairs](#) and the [Coalition Health Centers](#).

To read the full 2018 eValue8™ report, go to wahealthalliance.org/alliance-reports-websites/alliance-reports-evlue8/. To learn how the Coalition can help your plan reduce health care underuse, overuse and cost, contact the Coalition at info@phcoalition.org.

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: UNITED EMPLOYEES BENEFIT TRUST



The Teamsters who are members of United Employees Benefit Trust drive the roads and work in warehouses all over Washington State. They are joined by members of the OPIEU and AFSCME to form a core group of 2,200 members and 5,500 covered lives.

“Those of us who work in the administrative office are proud Teamsters, as well,” said Diana Clark, administrative manager. Since starting as a claims processor 25 years ago, she now oversees daily operations in the Trust’s Tacoma headquarters and works closely with the board of trustees to ensure the Trust continues to evolve its services.

That evolution includes joining the Pacific Health Coalition early in 2019. “We were looking to better manage our dialysis benefits, and our benefit consultant suggested we take a look at the Coalition,” Clark said.

The group is now accessing Renalogic’s services through the Coalition’s agreement with the dialysis cost containment provider. “We’re also promoting the Health Fairs to our membership. Two of our trustees will be there to help out in Tacoma and Pasco and I look forward to going to the fair in Kent,” Clark said.

CALENDAR

THE PACIFIC HEALTH COALITION QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

September 26
Coalition Update and Board Meeting, Teamster Union Hall, Tukwila, WA

November 20 ☐

HEALTH FAIR DATES

Please see page 4 ☐

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (IFEBP) 65TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 20-23, 2019
San Diego Convention Center
Coalition/National CooperativeRx Reception, Evening of October 21, Terrace overlooking the harbor.
Watch for your invitation; be sure to RSVP as attendance is limited ☐

NEW AETNA PLAN LEVERAGES THE POWER OF THE COALITION FOR THE LARGER COMMUNITY

Since 1994, the Pacific Health Coalition has been providing member access to quality health care while controlling costs. Now, in partnership with Aetna, the Coalition is reaching out to the larger community to help ensure that more people can receive quality care at a lower cost.

The Anchorage Mat-Su Community Plan gives small employers access to the lower preferred provider organization rates negotiated by the Coalition and Aetna. “This really is a perfect extension of our belief in the importance of quality, affordable health care for everyone,” said Fred Brown, the Coalition’s executive director. “And it is another example of how strength

in numbers can produce savings and performance opportunities for all of our members.”

The Community Plan grew out of the recognition that small employers have been unable to negotiate on a level playing field in today’s health care marketplace. It also addresses the appeals of some legislators to provide our services to the larger community.

“Given that the Coalition’s contracts with Aetna were already in place, it was relatively straightforward to create a Community Plan that covers many of the same facilities and providers,” said Greg Haley, Aetna’s vice president for sales & service, Northwest Middle Market.

That list includes Alaska Regional Hospital, Mat-Su Medical Center, and the Surgery Center of Anchorage, among others. The plan covers specialists in cardiology, orthopedics, and gastroenterology, to name just a few.

The Community Plan and the Alaska HCA

As a viable alternative to the proposed state-run Health Care Authority in Alaska, Brown noted that the new Anchorage Mat-Su Community Plan “allows us to make the argument that there are alternatives to a legislatively imposed solution. With this plan we are reaching out to small employer groups for the benefit of the families they cover.”



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READ ABOUT ALASKA FRACTURE & ORTHOPEDIC CLINIC SIGNS PPO AGREEMENT WITH COALITION, P. 1.

Since 1994, the Pacific Health Coalition (aka HCCMCA) has been helping member health plans control health care costs by negotiating better pricing on health benefits and services than these same plans could achieve on their own. Currently, there are 49 member health plans throughout Alaska and the Pacific Northwest.

2019 Coalition Health Fair Dates

ALASKA

September 14 & 15

Fairbanks - Carlson Center
2010 2nd Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701

September 21

Mat-Su Regional Medical Center
2500 S. Woodworth Loop
Palmer, AK 99645

September 21 & 22

Fairbanks - Carlson Center
2010 2nd Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701

October 19

Soldotna - Central Peninsula
Hospital, 250 Hospital Place
Soldotna, AK 99669

October 19 & 20

Anchorage - Ted Stevens
International Airport
North Terminal
4600 Postmark Drive
Anchorage, AK 99502

October 19 & 20

Juneau - Centennial Hall
101 Egan Drive
Juneau, AK 99801

November 2 & 3

Anchorage - Ted Stevens
International Airport
North Terminal
4600 Postmark Drive
Anchorage, AK 99502

WASHINGTON

September 21

Spokane - The Centennial
Hotel Spokane
303 West North River Drive
Spokane, WA 99201

September 28

Kent - IBEW Local 46,
Electricians Hall
19802 62nd Avenue S.
Kent, WA 98032

October 5

Burlington - UA Local 26
780 Chrysler Drive
Burlington, WA 98233

October 12

Pasco - Plumbers & Steamfitters
Local 598
1328 N Road 28
Pasco, WA 99301

October 26

Tacoma - La Quinta
1425 E 27th Street
Tacoma, WA 98421

November 2

Bothell - IUOE Local 302
Union Hall
18701 120th Avenue NE
Bothell, WA 98011

All fairs run 8 a.m. to noon,
except Juneau on October 20
which runs from 7:45 to 10:45
a.m. (AKDT).