

Proven Health Care Cost Reduction Through Strength in Numbers



FOUNDING MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: AEHW AND ASEA

Collectively bargained funds serving Alaskans formed the core membership of what was then called the Health Care Cost Management Corporation of Alaska (HCCMCA) when it began in 1994. Today, the Alaska State Employees Association/AFSCME Local 52 Health Benefits Trust (ASEA Trust) and the Alaska Electrical Health & Welfare Fund (AEHW Fund) are examples of funds that remain proud member plans in the Pacific Health Coalition.

The AEHW Fund, representing approximately 2,700 participants, joined the PHC in 1994, its inaugural year. “At the time,” recalls AEHW Fund Administrator Robert Garcia, “we were debating whether to purchase insurance through a vendor or self-fund. The resources offered by the Coalition means we can control our own Plan design and we are part of an organization that shares our mission.” Today, the AEHW Fund represents 3,600 participants in its Fund.

The ASEA Trust has approximately 17,000 plan participants. It joined the Coalition in 2003, just three years after the ASEA Trust itself was formed through collective bargaining between ASFCME Local 52 and the State of Alaska. For the ASEA Trust, a shared sense of mission and values with the Coalition were factors in its decision to join.

Both plans leverage the wide array of the PHC’s services to deliver quality care at negotiated prices to their plan participants. Between the two plans, they participate in every program offered by the Coalition. (See list, p. 4.) Individual participants of both plans particularly appreciate the cost, quality of care, and convenience of the Coalition Health Centers. (See article, p. 3.)

“When the ASEA Trust first joined, the incentives to use Alaska Regional Hospital (ARH) instead of Providence caused a bit of controversy,” Fred Brown, former ASEA Trust trustee and former PHC executive director, recalled. “But today, the PHC’s contracts with

Aetna and ARH deliver the biggest savings for the plan. The ASEA Trust’s plan participants now fully recognize and appreciate the tremendous value of those contracts.”

The AETNA contract delivers the greatest cost savings to both the AEHW Fund and the ASEA Trust: \$32.7 million and \$89 million, respectively, in 2022. Overall, Coalition programs helped the ASEA Trust save \$107 million in the 2022-2023 plan year. AEHW Fund saved a total of \$39 million.

As the Coalition has matured and its program offerings continue to increase, so does its reputation for delivering the best price and value in the marketplace, according to Brown. Garcia agreed, saying that, “the already competitive pricing can only get better with more participation by member plans in the programs offered by the PHC.”

To see how your plan might benefit from greater participation in Coalition programs, contact Executive Director Bonnie Payson at 702.460.4134 or bonnie.payson@phcoalition.org.



A NOTE FROM BONNIE PAYSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am so pleased to be serving and meeting the member plans that form the Pacific Health Coalition. My new position with the PHC is a natural extension of my 30+ years working in the Taft-Hartley space. I was drawn to the Coalition because my vision mirrors yours: To make sure that high-quality health care is accessible at an affordable cost for working people. That is the intent behind the Coalition's range of services, which you can read about in this newsletter. A complete list—including the newest, Delta Dental—is found on p. 4.

High on the list of most popular Coalition services are the Annual Health Fairs. We are thrilled to

be back fully in-person again this year during the months of September and October in both Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. This is a great opportunity to demonstrate the value of your health plan's membership in the PHC to your plan participants. Health Fair pre-registration began August 2nd at coalitionhealthfair.org. If your health plan is participating in this year's Health Fairs (and I hope it is!), I encourage you to help promote participation. I look forward to meeting both the health plan leadership and the individual plan participants of our member plans during the Health Fairs. (See article below.)

Have you or your plan participants visited any of the three Coalition Health Centers in Alaska?

The CHC's deliver caring, professional services, from treating routine cuts, scrapes and burns to ongoing management of diabetes or hypertension. Trained, friendly CHC staff can dispense many common medications and give vaccinations. They also perform X-rays and lab tests.

Based on our success in Alaska, the Board is studying a similar model for member plans in Washington state. You can read more about the CHCs on p. 3.

I look forward to meeting more of you and am happy to answer your questions at any time. Please contact me directly at 702.460.4134 or bonnie.payson@phcoalition.org.

2023 Health Fairs: Key Dates and Events

Pre-registration is required on coalitionhealthfair.org.

Pre-registration deadlines:

Alaska—midnight 7 business (9 calendar) days before each event

Pacific Northwest—midnight 3 Fridays before each event

Alaska

September 16th & 17th

Anchorage

Dena'ina Center
600 W 7th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

September 23rd & 24th

Fairbanks

Carlson Center
2010 2nd Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701

September 23rd

Mat-Su Valley

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

October 7th

Juneau

Centennial Hall
101 Eagan Drive
Juneau, AK 99801

October 7th

Soldotna

Central Peninsula Hospital
250 Hospital Place
Soldotna, AK 99669

October 8th

Juneau

(AlaskaCare Plans Only)
Centennial Hall
101 Eagan Drive
Juneau, AK 99801

Pacific Northwest

September 23rd

Pasco

Plumbers and Steamfitters Local
598

1328 N Road 28

Pasco, WA 99301

October 7th

Bothell

IUOE Local 302 Union Hall
18701 120th Ave. NE
Bothell, WA 98011

October 21st

Spokane

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

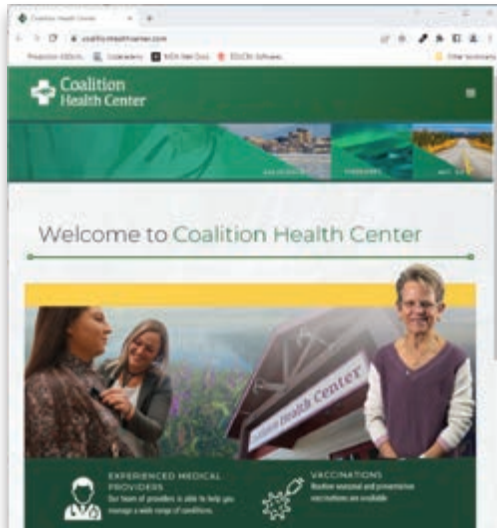
October 28th

Kent

IBEW Local 46 Electrician's
Hall 19802 62nd Ave. S.
Kent, WA 98032

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

Coalition Health Centers



Q: What has three locations, 10,000 encounters and has saved participating Coalition member plans more than \$2 million so far in 2023?

A: The Coalition Health Centers, managed by Beacon.

The Coalition Health Centers (CHCs) are designed for “seamless care management and quick access to quality care that is crucial for optimal patient outcomes,” according to Rachel Lawler, vice president of Clinical Services. “Since 2016, Beacon is honored to operate the Coalition Health Centers located in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and now a new clinic located in the Matanuska Susitna Valley!”

The CHCs offer full-scope primary care and acute care services and are accessible exclusively to participants of the PHC member plans and their eligible beneficiaries and dependents, age 5 and older in Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley, and age 2 and older in Fairbanks. The CHC’s skilled

primary care providers focus on injury and illness treatment, disease prevention, health promotion, and patient education. Services include labs, x-ray, medication dispensary, chronic care management and more. The CHC providers can also make specialist referrals, as needed.

In 2022, the total number of patient encounters in all three CHCs topped 32,000: 17,000 in Anchorage, 13,000 in Fairbanks and 1,500 in Mat-Su which began operating on July 1. Utilization continued at that pace during the first five months of 2023, according to consultants Parker, Smith & Feek. Since 2016, the CHCs have saved participating member plans over \$21 million in health care costs.

Look for CHC staff and providers at your local 2023 Coalition Health Fair (see article p. 2). “We welcome this opportunity to meet more participants from the member plans and talk with them about the value we deliver,” said Lawler.

One CHC patient underscores that value in a Beacon video, sharing how CHC staff diagnosed and is helping him manage his Type 2 diabetes. “Thanks to them, I can keep doing the things I love,” he said.

To learn more about the CHCs, go to coalitionhealthcenter.com. To learn how your health plan can participate, please email us at info@phcoalition.org or call 702.460.4134. □

CALENDAR

PHC and National CooperativeRx Annual Education Session:

August 24, 2023

10:30 (PDT) Registration,
11:00 (PDT) Educational Session

U.A. Local 32
597 Monster Rd SW,
Renton, WA 98057

2023 Quarterly Business Meeting:

August 24, following Annual Education Session, 1:30 p.m. (PDT), Seattle

November 15, 2023, Anchorage

Meetings are held in person and by videoconference through Microsoft Teams. Invitations and meeting materials will be distributed via email before the meeting date, including instructions about how to attend virtually. If you have questions about how to attend by videoconference, contact the PHC at info@phcoalition.org or 702.460.4134.

Coalition Health Fairs

September – November
(See article, p. 2)

International Foundation of Employee Benefits Plans (IFEBC) – 69th Annual Employee Benefits Conference:

October 1-4, 2023

Boston, MA

The PHC/National CooperativeRx Reception – Evening of October 3rd

Time and location to be announced.
□

3000 A Street, Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99503

READ ABOUT A NOTE FROM THE PHC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, P. 2.

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 more than 50 health plans participating throughout the United States.

The Pacific Health Coalition Programs

The services offered by the Pacific Health Coalition to its member plans are selected, negotiated and designed to achieve the best price and value for labor. For more information on these services, click on the links below, contact info@phcoalition.org or call 702.460.4134.



- [Annual Health Fairs](#)
- [Coalition Health Centers](#) (Anchorage, Fairbanks, Mat-Su Valley)
- Dental Care (Delta Dental)
- [Dialysis Cost Containment](#) (Renalogic)
- [Disease Management](#) (Optum)
- Joint Claims Administration (Aetna)
- Oncology Care (Transcarent)
- [PPO Contracts](#)
- [Pharmacy Benefits Management](#) (National Cooperative Rx/CVS Caremark)
- [Birthing Center](#) (Geneva Woods Birth Center)
- [Hospital Services](#) (Alaska Regional Hospital, Mat-Su Regional Hospital, Aetna)
- [Nationwide Provider Network](#) (Aetna)
- [Orthopedic Services](#) (Anchorage Fracture and Orthopedic Clinic/ Alaska Medical Alliance, LLC [AFOC/AMA])
- [Outpatient Surgery](#) (Surgery Center of Anchorage, Alaska Surgery Center, Alpine Surgery Center)
- [Physical Therapy Services](#) (Chugach Physical Therapy, Alaska Hand Rehabilitation, Ascension Physical Therapy)
- [Travel Surgery Program](#) (Transcarent)
- Virtual Physical Therapy (Transcarent)
- [Vision Care](#) (VSP)