



Proven Health Care Cost Reduction Through Strength in Numbers

Coming Summer 2025

TOP-QUALITY, LOW-COST CLINICAL CARE IN EASTERN WASHINGTON



The PHC is thrilled to open two new Coalition Health Centers (CHC) in the Tri-Cities area and Spokane! Dedicated to the Coalition member plans, the CHCs will offer affordable, high-quality primary, acute, and preventive health services to their plan participants.

Patients will have access to services for urgent medical needs, primary care, chronic conditions, and preventative care. The clinics will provide onsite medication dispensing, labs, and on-call services to members of plans that choose to participate. Preventative care will include annual screenings, adult and pediatric well-care, and vaccinations. The CHCs will offer same day appointments, minimal wait times, and after-hours care.

These clinics are another way Coalition member plans can easily and affordably offer comprehensive health care and peace of mind to plan participants. There is no per-member access fee because the PHC pools the administrative costs among participating member plans. Plan participants may utilize any CHC in their respective state.

Managed by Marathon Health, the Eastern Washington clinics will be staffed by licensed physicians, physician assistants and other health care providers.

To learn more and/or participate in the CHC program:

Website: <https://phcoalition.org/programs/coalition-health-centers/>

Email: info@phcoalition.org

Call: (702) 460-4134

Locations:

Spokane, Washington
(Opening July 2025)
201 W. North River Drive, Suite 520

Tri-Cities – Kennewick, Washington
(Opening June 2025)
6816 W. Rio Grande Avenue, Suite A
Kennewick, WA 99336

Anchorage, Alaska
701 East Tudor Road, Suite 120,
(907) 264-1370

Fairbanks, Alaska
570 Riverstone Way, Unit 3
(907) 450-3300

Mat-Su Borough – Wasilla, Alaska
1700 East Bogard Road,
Bldg. A, Suite 103,
(907) 206-4601 □

ALASKA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Key Issues and Legislative Developments

By Ryan Johnston, RJ Consulting

The 2025 Alaska legislative session has been marked by significant developments amid fiscal and social challenges. With over half the session completed by February, lawmakers grappled with a looming budget deficit driven by education spending, the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD), and declining oil revenues. A key focus was Senate Bill 62 and House Bill 76, both under review in education committees, aiming to address school funding and expand correspondence programs for homeschoolers, though no resolution has been reached. Governor Dunleavy's January education proposal, offering one-time school funding, stirred debate over its policy additions.

There are several pieces of legislation of interest this session that we are tracking. The first is SB 121 HEALTH INSURANCE ALLOWABLE CHARGES by Senator Cathy Giessel (R-Anchorage). The legislation would replace the repealed 80th percentile rule with a 75th percentile rule and requires that

insurers uniformly and equally apply reimbursement rates for the same type of health care service or supply and for health care providers who are practicing within the scope of their license. The second is SB 122 HEALTH INSURANCE NETWORK STANDARDS by Senator Cathy Giessel (R-Anchorage). It requires health care insurers to meet minimum provider network standards. If the insurer fails to meet minimum network standards, it must submit a plan for corrective action for consideration by the Director of Insurance. The bill is cumbersome and overly restrictive of Alaska's already limited-size market. Both bills are moving slowly through the committee process, and we will keep members updated on any progress.

Last session, the Legislature considered legislation concerning prior authorization that sought to implement a "gold card" program in Alaska. Over the interim all the relevant stakeholders worked collaboratively to come to a

compromise, which led to the legislation currently being considered by the Legislature. SB 133 and HB 144 do not include a gold card program, but rather, focus on comprehensively reforming prior authorization. The bill targets reforms that will directly and positively impact patients, including establishing timelines for decisions, long term authorizations for chronic conditions, establishing an exemption process for step therapy and prioritizing automation and electronic submission for prior authorizations.

With the session's end on May 21, critical budget and education issues remained the focus, setting the stage for intense final negotiations in a state navigating economic constraints and historic legislative shifts. This session has been marked by concerted efforts to balance fiscal responsibility with strategic investments in education and infrastructure. □

COMING JULY 1, 2025

Aetna Enhanced Claim and Code Review Program

Aetna is rolling out an enhanced Claim and Code Review Program otherwise (CCRP) to Joint Claims Administration (JCA) customers beginning July 1, 2025. CCRP creates additional savings for all those under the Aetna umbrella by applying expanded claim editing

technology to ensure coding accuracy. Although this program is not new to Aetna, investments were needed to configure the system to support JCA. CCRP is on a prepay basis which results in no delays for our TPA partners. As Aetna rolled this program

out, the Pacific Health Coalition negotiated a greater discount for our member groups, retaining 82% of the shared savings vs 70% which is Aetna's standard.

For questions, please contact your Plan Consultant. □

The Alaska Railroad

Coalition member Alaska Railroad (ARRC) is all about making connections. For more than 100 years, ARRC has strengthened Alaska's economy by providing essential transportation services and serving as a vital freight link for communities and businesses. Each year, ARRC transports over half a million passengers and more than 3.5 million tons of freight across its 600+ miles of track.

"We love the many travelers who venture to Alaska from all over the world to ride our iconic trains and see the beauty of our great state," said Jennifer Mergens, Chief Human Resources Officer. ARRC currently has 600 employees and 825 dependents on its health plans.

ARRC joined the PHC nine years ago to offer additional valuable benefits to employees. PHC membership provides access to the Coalition Health Centers (CHC) for their Blue Essentials health plan members. The CHCs increase employee access to convenient care,

contributing to employee engagement and retention. "The CHC providers do a great job of steering employees towards regular preventive care screenings and better management of chronic conditions like diabetes and hypertension," explained Mergens. She added that 'Railroaders' appreciate having care that feels tailored, local, and trusted - with "a minimum of fuss" given that they are usually seen within a day or two.

ARRC also likes offering Railroaders access to preventive screening labs at the PHC Fall Health Fairs at no cost to them. The fairs encourage preventative care and help members think about their and their families' overall health.

"With PHC membership, convenient care isn't just a buzzword," said Mergens. "It means more Railroaders are getting the care they need when they need it." ☐



CALENDAR

PHC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETINGS

August 20, 2025, 1:30 p.m.,

Renton, Washington

November 19, 2025, 1:00 p.m.,

Anchorage, Alaska

ANNUAL EDUCATION SESSION

August 20, 2025, 11:00a.m. (registration beginning at 10:30a.m.),

UA Local 32 Hall
Renton, WA

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PLANS (IFEBP) - 71ST ANNUAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CONFERENCE

November 9-12, 2025

Honolulu, Hawaii ☐

PACIFIC HEALTH COALITION 2025 FALL HEALTH FAIRS

That annual employee favorite is back! The PHC's Fall Health Fairs will once again offer preventive care health screening tests and flu shots to member plan participants and their enrolled, eligible dependents - **at no cost to them.**

What's being offered?

- Chemistry/hematology profile (including A1C)
- Thyroid screening
- Prostate disease screening (PSA)
- Vitamin D screening
- Flu shots
- And more!

Participating plans cover the costs of the lab tests. For more information about the Health

Fairs, contact Lauren Smyrski at lauren.smyrski@phcoalition.org.

Alaska

(Plans must RSVP to participate by June 9.)

• Fairbanks

Saturday, September 13
Sunday, September 14
Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center
3605 Cartwright Ct., Bldg. C

• Anchorage

Saturday, September 20
Sunday, September 21
Dena'ina Center
600 W 7th Avenue

• Mat-Su (Palmer)

Saturday, September 20
Mat-Su Regional Medical Center
2500 S. Woodward Loop

• Soldotna

Saturday, September 27
Central Peninsula Hospital
250 Hospital Place

• Juneau

Saturday, October 4
Sunday, October 5
Centennial Hall
101 Egan Drive

Pacific Northwest

• Health Fairs are typically held in Spokane, Kent, Pasco, and Bothell, Washington. For dates and locations, and to RSVP for your Plan to participate, please contact Lauren Smyrski at lauren.smyrski@phcoalition.org. ☐



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READ ABOUT MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: THE ALASKA RAILROAD, P. 3.

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](#)
- Dental Care (Delta Dental)
- [Dialysis Cost Containment](#) (Renalogic)
- [Disease Management](#) (Optum)
- Joint Claims Administration (Aetna)
- Oncology Care (Transcarent)
- [Pharmacy Benefits Management](#) (National Cooperative Rx/ CVS Caremark)
- [PPO Contracts](#)
 - Alaska Regional Hospital
 - [Geneva Woods Birthing Center](#)
 - Inpatient and Outpatient Services
- [PPO Contracts](#) (cont'd)
 - [Aetna Nationwide Provider Network](#)
 - [Orthopedic PPO](#)
 - [Surgery Benefit Program](#) (Transcarent)
 - Virtual Physical Therapy (Transcarent)
 - [Vision Care](#) (VSP) ☐