2015 Healthy Living Collaborative Strategies

Working together, to make living better - for everyone
At the Healthy Living Collaborative, we believe positive change comes from building multi-sector partnerships that acknowledge the complex drivers of health in the modern world, then authentically connecting that collective impact infrastructure to community quality of life and community wisdom. We’re built from the ground up to align policy and systems work with community-led initiatives in order to transform partnerships seeking change into movements that create it. Our three-fold approach:

1. **Focus on Community-Based Engagement and Prevention.** We always start with community needs and respond with community-based strategies. A network of peer-to-peer Community Health Workers (CHWs) helps us bridge those efforts to larger reform in a meaningful way.

2. **Build an Infrastructure for Collective Impact.** Local efforts can’t overcome every systemic or policy barrier, so we connect those efforts to a regional collective impact infrastructure designed to support local efforts.

3. **Build Health into All Policies and Services.** We work toward large-scale change that places community health at the center of decision making at every point in our communities.

Our members include health care, public health, social services, education, faith, a tribal nation, housing services, transportation, private enterprise, and more. On the strength of this diverse membership, we mobilize our communities around the key issues, creating a path for local solutions to be actualized by health systems and community organizations working in deliberate and focused partnership with the people who live in our most vulnerable communities.
A Community Health Worker (CHW) is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the CHW to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.

A CHW also builds individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.

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American Public Health Association Definition of a Community Health Worker
Despite sincere efforts to promote health and reduce disparities, vulnerable communities in Southwest Washington continue to struggle. The impacts ripple through multiple systems, including healthcare, social services, and criminal justice, and play out in the daily lives of our family, friends, and neighbors. In a world of profound interconnectivity, we can no longer afford to work alone in our usual silos and expect better community health to somehow appear on the horizon.

It’s an enormous challenge. In SW Washington, however, we prefer to be defined not by our challenges, but by our capacity to meet them. There is a rich history of collaboration here, which has coalesced into a regional, cross-sector partnership dedicated to enacting policy, systems, and environmental change strategies that make prioritize healthy living for all SW Washington residents.

**Our Mission**

The Healthy Living Collaborative is constantly focusing on upstream solutions that support community-based initiatives to improve health and wellness. We are committed to strengthening families, neighborhoods, and systems in order to ensure health equity. HLC brings together partners from all sectors, combining resources and ideas, to improve the lives of everyone.
Community-Based Engagement and Prevention

Regional Network of Practicing Community Health Workers:

Increased community capacity of neighborhood-based and professional level Community Health Workers to build community engagement, link community resources and improve health outcomes.

- Promotes professional development opportunities and provides scholarships;
- Advocates for workforce development in Southwest Washington related to the CHW skill set;
- Raises awareness among local systems of care about the value that local CHW activities add to these systems.

✓ Community Health Worker Neighborhood Project:

- Recruit natural helpers from the neighborhood or rural communities (Rose Village, South Kelso, and Wahkiakum County)
- Train the recruited team in core Community Health Worker (CHW) competencies and support their ongoing meetings and activities;
- Assist the Community Linkages Workgroup to prioritize efforts based on neighborhood or rural community input.

✓ Community Connections Across Systems of Care for At-Risk Populations Planning:

This project will look beyond the individual high utilizers of care by examining the adequacy of their surroundings—city blocks, urban neighborhoods, isolated rural towns—to determine what is happening, or not happening, in these communities that results in more expensive acute medical care or repeated incarceration. This work will inform the HLC’s targeted CHW recruitment and training. This work will also inform the Accountable Communities of Health as they seek ways to incorporate Community Health Workers into their systems of care.

✓ Model Project - Partnership with Regional Health Alliance Partnership:

Assist in developing a Community Health Worker component to a model of integrated care that coordinates physical and behavioral health services for low income patients with comorbidities in chronic disease, such as diabetes, chemical dependency and mental health.

Educational Outcomes and Housing Instability for School Age Children

Explore and Design a temporary rental assistance test-site with integrated supportive services for families experiencing housing instability who have children enrolled in school.
Health in All Policies and Services

(Active Living, Healthy Eating, and Tobacco Free Environments)

✓ Promote and encourage collaboration of farmers markets across the region accepting the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

✓ Implement Complete Streets ordinance in local cities and counties.

✓ Support each county’s Board of Health to enact an ordinance that prohibits the use of electronic vapor devices in any place where smoking is prohibited per RCW 70.160 (Smoking in Public Places).

State Policy Agenda

1. Support state Capitol budget funds for necessary infrastructure in schools for clean tap water fountains. (budget)

2. Support state Capitol budget funds for necessary infrastructure in schools to support cooking of school meals on site. (budget)

3. Increase state funding for the Safe Routes to Schools Program. (budget)

4. Support E-Cigarette strategies, which restricts access to youth (restricting advertising, definition of E-Cigarettes, licensing retailers). (policy)

5. Support the creation of a new Medicaid benefit in Washington to cover the case management and tenancy support services outlined in Permanent Supportive Housing

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**Policy and Steering Committee Members**

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*Clark County Public Health*

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*Educational Service District 112*

Steve Maynard  
*Southwest Behavioral Health*

Sue Cameron  
*Wahkiakum Health and Human Services*

Cascade Pacific Action Alliance

**Committed Partners**

- Alliance for a Healthier Generation
- Area Agency on Aging and Disability of SW Washington
- Clark College
- Clark County Food System
- Clark County Public Health
- Columbia United Providers
- Community Foundation of SW Washington
- Consumer Voices Are Born
- Council for the Homeless
- Cowlitz County Health and Human Services
- Cowlitz on the Move
- Cowlitz Indian Tribe
- Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments
- Educational Service District 112
- Educational Opportunities for Children & Families
- Foundation for Healthy Generations
- Free Clinic of Southwest Washington
- Kaiser Permanente
- Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center
- Lifeline Connections
- Longview Housing Authority
- Lower Columbia CAP
- Lower Columbia Head Start
- National Alliance on Mental Health Illness
- New Day Dental
- Northwest Seventh Day Adventist Church Health Ministries
- Nonprofit Network of Southwest Washington
- Partners In Careers
- PeaceHealth
- Prevention Alliance
- Prevent!
- Providence Health and Services
- Regional Health Alliance
- Safe Routes to School National Partnership
- Sea Mar
- Skamania County Community Health
- Support for Early Learning and Families
- South West Behavioral Health
- Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council
- Vancouver Housing Authority
- Vancouver Public Schools
- Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services
- Washington State University Extension
- Washington State University Vancouver
- YMCA Vancouver

Ex Officio: Washington Department of Health

**Consultants**

- Foundation for Healthy Generations
- Uncommon Solutions

**Current Funders**

- Clark County Community Services
- Clark County Public Health
- Community Foundation of Southwest Washington
- Cowlitz County Health and Human Services
- Foundation for Healthy Generations
- Free Clinic of Southwest Washington
- Kaiser Permanente
- Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center
- Lifeline Connections
- Northwest Health Foundation
- Pandora’s Box Publishing
- PeaceHealth
- Philanthropy Northwest
- United Way of Columbia Willamette
- Wahkiakum Health and Human Services
- Washington State Department of Health