

**Dr. Robert Bree Collaborative Meeting Minutes**  
**March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 | 1:00-3:00**  
**Held Virtually**

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**Members Present**

Hugh Straley, MD, Bree Collaborative (Chair)  
Angie Sparks, MD, UnitedHealthcare  
Darcy Jaffe, MN, ARNP, FACHE, Washington State  
Hospital Association  
DC Dugdale, MD, MS, University of Washington  
Sharon Eloranta, MD, Washington Health Alliance  
Colin Fields, MD, Kaiser Permanente  
Gary Franklin, MD, Washington State Department  
of Labor and Industries  
Greg Marchand, The Boeing Company

Norifumi Kamo, MD, MPP, Virginia Mason  
Franciscan Medical Center  
Kimberly Moore, MD, Franciscan Health System  
Carl Olden, MD, Pacific Crest Family Medicine  
Mary Kay O'Neill, MD, MBA, Mercer  
Susane Quistgaard, MD, Premera Blue Cross  
Susie Dade, MS, Patient Representative  
Judy Zerzan-Thule, MD, MPH, Washington State  
Health Care Authority

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**Members Absent**

Colleen Daly, PhD, Microsoft  
Mark Haugen, MD, Walla Walla Clinic

Kevin Pieper, MD, MHA, Kadlec Regional Medical

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**Staff, Members of the Public**

Nicholas Locke, MPH, FHCQ  
Karie Nicholas, MA, GC, FHCQ  
Emily Robson, RN, DNP, FHCQ  
Ginny Weir, MPH, FHCQ  
Beth Tinker, PhD, MPH, MN, RN Washington Health  
Care Authority

Billie Dickinson, WSMA  
Ji Young Nam, MD, Swedish  
Jason Fodeman, WA Labor and Industries  
Jackie Barry, APTA  
Denise Giambalvo, Washington Health Alliance

Meeting materials are posted on the Bree Collaborative's website, [here](#), under previous meetings.

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**WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, COVID-19 UPDATE**

Hugh Straley, MD, Bree Collaborative Chair opened the meeting. Dr. Straley invited updates about the COVID-19 pandemic at member organizations.

**Motion:** Approve January Meeting Minutes

**Outcome:** Passed with unanimous support

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**HCA UPDATE: MATERNAL HEALTH EPISODE OF CARE BUNDLE**

Beth Tinker, PhD, MPH, MN, RN, gave an update on the maternal health episode of care bundle from the Health Care Authority. The HCA has been working toward high-quality, high-value maternity care after several legislative changes as well as the Bree Maternity bundle. In 2022 the HCA began looking into a bundle for maternity care using the idea that value based purchasing will drive transformation. Throughout the project, they learned that there is a lack of care coordination, low levels of reimbursement, and concerns about equity and data accessibility for implementing a maternity episode of care bundle. The HCA decided to pause on implementing an episode of care bundle due to the lack of evidence, lack of equity, and the fragmented healthcare ecosystem. Instead, the HCA will focus on targeted initiatives to improve maternal care, including at least one short-term and one long-term project. The HCA is evaluating potential projects and will have more information about decisions as available.

Bree members added comments and questions on the presentation.

- Members are still concerned about the use of metrics for quality improvement and equity, especially collecting race, ethnicity, and language data.
- Members asked about the top 5 quality concerns for maternal mortality and asked how the HCA could use existing data to target quality improvement. One example is addressing hemorrhage by focusing on claims data and identifying best practices. A lack of workable data makes this difficult to implement, but there is the potential to work with health record data to answer more practical questions on clinical care quality.

## **WHA SPOTLIGHT: LOW BACK PAIN IMPLEMENTATION COLLABORATIVE**

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Sharon Eloranta, MD, Washington Health Alliance (WHA), presented on a recent WHA low-back pain collaborative as an example of implementation of Bree guidelines (The Bree developed a report on low back pain in 2013). The WHA worked to advance the market by addressing low-back pain due to the cost of low-back pain care and existing evidence-based guidelines like the Bree Collaborative's guidelines. The structure of the implementation collaborative was based on the IHI "Breakthrough" series and engaged multiple stakeholders to reduce low-value care and increase high-value care. The group developed an acute low back pain care pathway and developed several implementation tools including sample workflows and sample patient education templates.

Bree members added comments and questions to the presentation.

- How did the WHA measure success? The initial goals of the program were not quantitative, but the WHA plans on collecting data from purchasers about key utilization metrics like imaging, emergency room visits, and opioid prescribing. Additionally, WHA will focus on case study stories for driving further change.

## **2023 TOPIC UPDATES**

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Norris Kamo, MD, MPP, Virginia Mason Medical Center, presented on the Bree's Diabetes workgroup. The workgroup is using the quintuple aim to wrap their arms around the issue. A recent article showed that Washington state spends 6.7 billion dollars per year on diabetes care. The workgroup has broken into five groups – Cost/Value, Care Experience, Population Health, Workforce Wellbeing, and Equity. Each subgroup has developed a plan for literature review to develop high-impact recommendations. Common themes across the sub-groups include team-based care, affordability, and closing the gaps for priority populations.

Bree members provided comments on the direction of the workgroup

- Another topic to look into is the effect of untreated behavioral health concerns on chronic illness self-efficacy. SAMSA will have more data about this.

Darcy Jaffe, MN, Washington State Hospital Association, presented on the complex discharge workgroup, renamed from the difficult to discharge workgroup. Ms. Jaffe discussed the group's charter for approval. Current opportunities for impact include definitions and metrics, discharge pathways, and growing current infrastructure capacity. Mr. Locke shared about the group's most recent meeting on definitions and metrics, where the workgroup agreed to focus on "complex discharge" defined by existing barriers to discharge as well as length of stay. The group plans on discussing aligned discharge metrics at the next meeting.

**Motion:** Adopt Complex Discharge charter and roster

**Outcome:** Adopted with unanimous support

Nick Locke, MPH, presented on the Perinatal/Maternal Mental Health workgroup as Colleen Daly, PhD, the workgroup chair, was unable to attend. Mr. Locke shared the workgroup's charter purpose and aim, and invited feedback on scope. The workgroup has discussed including a broad scope about prevention and pre-conception activities as opposed to a narrow scope around pregnancy, delivery, and the post-partum period. Bree members discussed the scope and recommended reining in the scope at least a little bit, or at least focusing on data/metrics as well as screening at the time of pregnancy and referrals to services.

**Motion:** Adopt Perinatal/Maternal Mental Health charter and roster

**Outcome:** Adopted with unanimous support

#### **IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE: UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATA PILOT SURVEY**

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Emily Robson, RN, DNP, Foundation for Health Care Quality briefly shared about the next Bree webinar, a climate change webinar on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Karie Nicholas, MA, GC presented on an interoperability metrics survey that the Bree hopes to implement. The survey is similar in structure to the MEHAF for behavioral health integration, but focuses on data connectivity. Ms. Nicholas is planning on piloting the survey with Bree members before expanding to workgroup members, and then the public in general. The pilot is currently meant mostly for health care providers/delivery systems.

Bree members discussed changes and how to engage with the survey.

- Colin Fields, Kaiser Permanente, requested more information about the survey
- Judy Zerzan, WA Health Care Authority, offered to connect about HCA interoperability efforts
- Some changes to the survey were discussed, including separate IT capabilities for patient information vs. generic operating functions.

#### **NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING COMMENTS**

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Dr. Hugh Straley thanked those who presented and closed the meeting.

**Next Bree Collaborative Meeting:** May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023