

**The Bree Collaborative**  
**Draft Extreme Heat Charter and Roster**

**Problem Statement**

Climate change is widespread, rapid, and intensifying with a direct impact on health on a regional level.<sup>1</sup> Washington has seen an increase in climate related illnesses including but not limited to heat related illnesses, especially during extreme heat events. During the heat dome of 2021, over 400 Washingtonians lost their lives due to heat related illnesses. Extreme heat disproportionately impacts children, pregnant individuals, the elderly, outdoor workers, people with disabilities, low-income communities and historically marginalized communities.<sup>2</sup> Coordinated efforts across sectors are needed to prevent and respond to the health effects of extreme heat, including early detection and warning systems, preventative education and communication with communities at highest risk, and standardized clinical protocols for reducing risk related to heat exposure.

**Aim**

To prevent and reduce heat-related disease burden in Washington state, especially for vulnerable groups.

**Purpose**

To propose evidence-informed guidelines to the full Bree Collaborative on practical and evidence-based methods for reducing heat-related disease burden, including:

- Defining topic area and scope.
- Applying existing to emergency preparedness and response protocols to Washington state
- Identifying effective communication and education strategies to increase patient and public awareness around health risks, especially those populations more affected by extreme heat.
- Identify best practices for system coordination across organizations and jurisdictions to respond to extreme heat.
- Identify and/or generate protocols to assist in clinical decision making, especially for high-risk populations.
- Identify funding mechanisms to support population health prevention techniques such as cooling centers and air conditions

**Duties & Functions**

The workgroup will: (Choose several or add more)

- Research evidence-informed and expert-opinion informed guidelines and best practices (emerging and established).
- Identify current barriers and future opportunities for implementing interventions.
- Consult relevant professional associations and other stakeholder organizations and subject matter experts for feedback, as appropriate.
- Meet for approximately nine months, as needed.
- Provide updates at Bree Collaborative meetings.
- Post draft report(s) on the Bree Collaborative website for public comment prior to sending report to the Bree Collaborative for approval and adoption.
- Present findings and recommendations in a report.
- Recommend data-driven and practical implementation strategies including metrics or a process for measurement.
- Revise this charter as necessary based on scope of work.
- Identifying measures and metrics that are meaningful to understand the effectiveness of guidelines
- Identifying implementation strategies for guidelines

## Structure

The workgroup will consist of individuals confirmed by Bree Collaborative members or appointed by the chair of the Bree Collaborative. The Bree Collaborative director and program coordinator will staff and provide management and support services for the workgroup.

Less than the full workgroup may convene to: gather and discuss information; conduct research; analyze relevant issues and facts; or draft recommendations for the deliberation of the full workgroup. A quorum shall be a simple majority and shall be required to accept and approve recommendations to send to the Bree Collaborative.

## Meetings

The workgroup will hold meetings as necessary. Bree Collaborative staff will conduct meetings, arrange for the recording of each meeting, and distribute meeting agendas and other materials prior to each meeting. Additional workgroup members may be added at the discretion of the Bree Collaborative director.

Name	Title	Organization
Christopher Chen, MD (chair)	Medical Director for Medicaid	HCA
Brad Kramer, PhD	Program Manager	Public Health SKC
Kristina Petsas	Chief Medical Officer for Employer and Individual Plans	UnitedHealthcare
Bre Holt	Senior Director Population Health	Comagine Health
Jessi Kelly	Research Coordinator on Collaborative for Extreme Event Resilience	UW
Jeff Duchin, MD	Health Office	King County
Stefan Wheat, MD	Emergency Medicine Physician	UW
Raj Sundar, MD	Family Medicine Physician	KP
Jessica Symank	Senior Director, Safety and Quality and Rural Programs	WSHA
Kelly Naismith	Climate Change and Health Epidemiologist Supervisor	DOH
LuAnn Chen, MD, MHA	Medical Director	CHPW
June Spector, MD, MPH	Internal Medicine Physician/Scientist	LNI
Mary Beth Bennett, MD	Pediatric Resident	Seattle Children's
Seth Doyle, MA	Director of Strategic Initiatives/President	NWRPCA/WAPH

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/nejmra1807873>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.heat.gov/pages/who-is-at-risk-to-extreme-heat>