

**Foundation for Health Care Quality
Draft Social Needs and Health Equity Charter**

Problem Statement

The social determinants of health (SDoH), conditions in which we [live, work, and play](#), contribute ~40% to our overall health and length of life.¹ A person's experience of racism and other forms of discrimination in healthcare services are [embedded within social determinants](#)² and have [high physical and emotional health costs](#)³ contributing to health disparities. While social needs, racism, and other forms of discrimination have a large impact on health, they are largely unacknowledged during a patient's clinical visit. In 2021, the Foundation for Health Care Quality, through the Bree Collaborative, developed a [recommendation framework](#) for addressing social need and health equity in clinical spaces.⁴

Aim

To translate existing guidelines on social need and health equity into an action plan for addressing social need and achieving health equity in Washington state.

Purpose

To **develop a roadmap of specific priorities for collaborative action** within the larger scope of addressing social need and achieving health equity in Washington state, and to develop practical and evidence-informed recommendations **and implementation steps for priority areas**, including:

Planning:

- **Mobilizing and aligning healthcare stakeholders to address social need and health equity.**

Identification:

- Capturing **and expanding demographic and geographic data fields** to assess disparities
- **Surveying social need burden via person-centered screening tools, community input, and other relevant data sources**

Tracking and Measurement:

- **Identifying a data collection and evaluation strategy for demographic, geographic, and social needs data**
- **Ensuring interoperability across organizations while maintaining data privacy**

Follow-Up

- **Interpreting relevant demographic and geographic data to direct resources to improve health equity**
- **Responding to identified social need through **internal and external** resources and partnerships**
- **Engaging with community based organizations as partners in addressing social need and equity.**

Incentives and Investment:

- **Providing sustainable funding for healthcare-based social need and health equity interventions that provide value**
- **Ensuring funding for the community-based organizations and partners in social need and health equity interventions.**
- **Disseminating findings and recommendations from this steering committee**

Duties & Functions

The workgroup will:

- Research evidence-informed and expert-opinion informed guidelines and best practices (emerging and established).
- Maintain an equity lens while developing recommendations and interventions.
- Identify current barriers and future opportunities for implementing interventions.

- Consult relevant stakeholder organizations and subject matter experts for feedback, as appropriate.
- Post draft report(s) and meeting material on a publicly available website
- Present findings and recommendations in best-practice recommendation reports
- Recommend data-driven and practical implementation strategies including metrics or a process for measurement.
- Create and oversee subsequent subgroups to help carry out the work, as needed.
- Revise this charter as necessary based on scope of work.
- Present educational seminars to disseminate findings at least once annually.

Structure

The Steering Committee will consist of individuals confirmed by the Foundation for Health Care Quality. The Foundation for Health Care Quality will staff and provide management and support services for the Steering Committee.

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 final materials for dissemination to the public.

Meetings

The workgroup will hold meetings monthly or as necessary. Foundation for Health Care Quality 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 Foundation for Health Care Quality staff.

Name	Title	Organization
Abigail Berube, MPH	Director, Safety and Quality	Washington State Health Association
Anne Farrell-Sheffer, MPH	Community Workforce and Partnerships Section Manager	Washington State Department of Health
Christopher Chen, MD	Associate Medical Director	Washington State Health Care Authority
Dan Lessler, MD, MHA	Senior Vice-President, Clinical Leadership	Comagine Health
James Manuel	Project Lead	Washington Health Benefit Exchange
Janice Tufte	Patient Advocate	
Karie Nicholas, MS	Data Analyst	Washington Association for Community Health
Kat Latet	Director, Health Systems Innovation	Community Health Plan of Washington
Kate McLean, MD, MPH	Vice President, Clinical Strategy & Quality	Quilted Health
Kathie Olso		
Kristina Alnajjar	Director, Equity and Workforce Development	Community Health Plan of Washington
Lori Cohen	Director, Health Services Performance	Community Health Plan of Washington
Michael Garrett, MS	Principle	Mercer
Milena Stott, LICSW	Chief of Transformation and Innovation	Valley Cities Behavioral Health

Quyên Hunyh, MD	Health Equity Manager	Washington State Health Care Authority
Sabrina Tso, MS	Program Manager, Center for Diversity and Health Equity	Seattle Children’s Hospital
Sami Bailey, MPH	Policy Analyst	Washington Association for Community Health
Yolanda Evans, MD, MPH	Adolescent Medicine, Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology	Seattle Children’s Hospital
Yogini Sharma, MBBS, MHA	Associate Vice President, Quality Improvement and Risk Adjustment	Molina Healthcare

¹ World Health Organization. (2022). Social Determinants of Health. https://www.who.int/health-topics/social-determinants-of-health#tab=tab_1

² Paradies, Yin et al. (2015). Racism as a Determinant of Health: A Systemic Review and Meta-Analysis. PLoS One. 10.1371/journal.pone.0138511

³ Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. (2021). Discrimination. <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health/interventions-resources/discrimination>

⁴ Bree Collaborative (2021). Social Determinants of Health and Health Equity. <https://www.qualityhealth.org/bree/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2021/05/FHCQ-Bree-SDoH-Equity-Final.pdf>