



## CHAPTER 2 – ACCOUNTABLE COMMUNITIES OF HEALTH OVERVIEW

### Section 1: What are Accountable Communities of Health?

The State has formed nine (9) Accountable Communities of Health (ACHs) that cover the entire state with most boundaries aligned with the State’s Medicaid regional service areas. Accountable Communities of Health (ACHs) are an essential component of the State’s Healthier Washington project to improve overall population health and lower health care costs. ACHs serve as lead partners in implementing changes to Washington’s health care delivery system. They are locally governed, public-private organizations that will:

1. Function as a partner in transitioning to value-based<sup>1</sup> purchasing as Washington moves away from traditional fee-for-service;
2. Coordinate with regional and State partners regarding the transition to integrated physical and behavioral health care; and
3. Determine and implement projects intended to further Medicaid Transformation goals.

ACHs are responsible for developing a Regional Health Needs Inventory and a Regional Health Improvement Plan. The Regional Health Needs Inventory (RHNI) for each ACH includes a summary of existing health improvement projects/resources within each region, and assessment of the population’s health needs. The purpose of the RHNI is for the State to align future efforts with existing resources rather than supplant regional health efforts. The RHNI will also identify goals for the regionally-based projects funded through the Waiver.

The Regional Health Improvement Plan (RHIP) will identify regional health priorities based on the RHNI and readily available data (including data provided by the State), existing inventories and community assessments within the region. The RHIP will also provide strategies for ACH member and partner organizations to work together to address the identified priorities, including any identified challenges.

#### What will Accountable Communities of Health Do?

- Evaluate health needs within their region
- Administer Medicaid Transformation Waiver funds (if the ACH decides to serve this role)
- Advise state agencies on the design and operation of Medicaid
- Serve as a regional adviser to the State in health care purchasing, including Medicaid

#### What will Accountable Communities of Health **Not** Do?

- Duplicate or replace existing services
- Possess legal and financial responsibility for Medicaid and non-Medicaid contracting, including monitoring and oversight. These will remain with the State. The State will continue to contract with Medicaid Managed Care Organizations and Behavioral Health Organizations.

**For up-to-date information of Washington’s Regional Accountable Communities of Health,**

visit: <http://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/healthier-washington/accountable-communities-health-ach>

#### ACH MEMBERS

- health and long-term care providers
- health insurance companies
- public health agencies
- school districts, criminal justice agencies
- non-profit social service agencies
- legal services organizations
- Tribes & UIHPs
- philanthropic agencies

<sup>1</sup> State Innovation Model Contractual Guidelines for Accountable Communities of Health, HCA 82-023 716, p. 6.

