



To: Washington State Health Care Authority
From: BHT Community Voices Council
June 6th, 2022
RE: Medicaid Waiver Renewal Feedback

To the Health Care Authority,

The Better Health Together Community Voices Council is made up of 10 people who are current Medicaid users in the BHT region. We support BHT's decision making by sharing our lived experience navigating the health care system. Many of us attended the BHT Board Meeting where Health Care Authority presented on the renewal of the Medicaid Waiver. Additionally, BHT staff made time to walk through the proposal at our meeting so we could be proactive in giving feedback. Thank you for the chance for us to give our voice.

Here is some of the feedback from our council:

- Many of us on the council are Community Health Workers or have benefited from being connected to one. We have been excited about the Hub model in our region centering Community Health Workers as a trusted health champion. Many of us have benefited from CHW trainings supported by BHT and we are excited to see the waiver renewal continue to support more job opportunities and training to grow the CHW workforce.
- We believe housing is health! Continuing to include housing, and specifically permanent supportive housing, in the waiver is very important to us.
- Many of us have been in caregiving positions, or worked with people aging in home, and appreciate the recognition of the burden that is put on family members and continued supports that center the value in being able to age peacefully at home.
- Many of us have had our health needs fall through the cracks because of changes in our enrollment status. It can be very confusing to manage, and difficult to figure out where to find the right information or who to talk to. Making it easier for kids to get and stay enrolled through continuous coverage, and enrolling people back on Medicaid before they leave jail will support vulnerable populations, we know are particularly vulnerable during this confusing process. This is a step in the right direction for the universal coverage we hope for. We hope HCA will continue to address the root cause of these challenges alongside these innovative solutions for impacted vulnerable groups.
- We love Better Health Together and the ACH staff who have supported our council since 2018. BHT is committed to getting community voice at the table and centering equity in all





conversations. Together all our council has completed Equity 101 training from BHT and is participating in a book club on *How To Be An Anti-Racist* by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi with staff. We are so appreciative of the connection, opportunities, and learning we have gained from BHT offering this space, and are excited to see the ACH model continue so our council continues to have this platform to be part of the change.

- While we see that all these projects are will support decreasing inequities in our community, we urge the Health Care Authority to be explicit and clear in language supporting equity and anti-racism. We recognize racism, white supremacy culture, and systemic oppression are the leading public health crisis driving inequity. **You can't fight what you can't name**, and we challenge the Health Care Authority to use their position of power to be explicit in naming racism as a public health crisis in the waiver renewal application, and as a critical issue for not *just* Accountable Communities of Health to address, but every human being and the systems supporting us.

With gratitude,

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