

Spokane Collaborative Overview

July 2021

What is the Spokane Collaborative?

The Spokane Collaborative was formed by Better Health Together (BHT) in March 2018. The Collaborative is the convening body for BHT's clinical and community partners in Spokane County, with the mission of creating a local, sustainable structure to address health equity through cross-sector coordination. The Collaborative is driven by its members, who in the past saw opportunities but lacked the partnerships or collective spirit to make them a reality.

In 2019, the Collaborative began work to collectively tackle three equity priority areas, with funding from the BHT Board. In 2021, Oral Health was added as a fourth priority area.

- Affordable Housing
- Reducing Family Violence & Trauma
- Access to Behavioral Health
- Oral Health

Membership & Governance

Collaborative members New members are welcome at any time. Over 50 organizations are members of the Collaborative, representing the majority of our Medicaid and social determinants of health organizations in our county. See our [member list](#).

Collaborative Connection Team (CCT) is the governing & leadership body with multi-sector representation of Collaborative members.

Better Health Together (BHT) is the convening & managing organization.

Decision-making The Collaborative and CCT seek general consensus on decisions. We use a general quorum vote from all partner organizations in attendance (one vote per organization).

Vision

The Spokane Collaborative envisions a health system for our community that:

- Provides access without barriers
- Provides care that is equitable and person-centered
- Promotes a healthy community environment where everyone has access to the conditions that foster good health
- Reduces silos and builds partnerships across sectors

How we work

The Spokane Collaborative contributes to that vision by:

- Creating a forum for discussion, creative ideas, and cross-sector sharing
- Building meaningful connections and partnerships through showcases, networking, and shared work
- Promoting shared language and understanding
- Governing collectively through open discussion and participatory budgeting
- Collectively building & implementing plans to tackle challenges for our community

What to expect as a new Collaborative member

New member mentorship

Coming into a group as big as the Collaborative can be daunting, whether you're a new member organization or a new representative for a long-time partner. But it's easier with a friend! You'll be connected with a member of the Collaborative Connection Team (CCT) as a mentor. They will help introduce you to the Collaborative, connect you to a workgroup, answer questions, and be a friendly face in your first meetings. Learn more about our CCT members [here](#).

How much you use the mentor is up to you. You may just have a quick coffee conversation together and feel ready to dive in, or you may want more support in your first few months in the Collaborative. It's up to you.

Collaborative meetings

The Collaborative meets on the 3rd Thursday, 1-3pm. Dates and location information are posted [here](#). Most months, the meeting includes both:

- Gathering as a full Collaborative to build connections and determine priorities for our work together.
- Convening our smaller equity workgroups to build workplans and budgets, implement projects, check-in and course correct, etc.

Joining a workgroup

Collaborative members get to choose which equity workgroup they participate in, based on their interest and expertise. Your mentor can help if you're not sure which workgroup you'd like to join.

Workgroup members aren't just the folks implementing the projects. Being part of a workgroup also means sharing ideas, partnering in small ways (like distributing information or materials), bringing an outside perspective or subject expertise, and guiding the direction of the work.

See [here](#) for details on what the equity workgroups are up to!

Level of engagement

We recognize that members will engage at different levels based on their time, interests, and needs of their organization. We welcome members at all levels of engagement!

Interested	Engaged	Implementing	Transforming
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using it as a source of information – visiting the webpage, joining occasional meetings.• Curious about joining more regularly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attends meetings regularly & participates in workgroup(s) and networking.• Brings ideas, suggestions, and opportunities to the group, including being part of partner shares & showcases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Actively implementing workgroup plan or other Collaborative activities.• Takes information, ideas, & partnership opportunities back to their organization to influence internal work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acting as a driver of system or policy change, or facilitating partner engagement that can drive change.• Understanding their organization's role in system change & actively participating in that change.

Note: This is a summary of a [prioritization & engagement plan](#) in development by the Collaborative.