Key Staff

AnnaLisa Gellerman, Health Care Cost Transparency Board Manager, Washington State Health Care Authority, healthcosttransparency@hca.wa.gov

AnnaLisa Gellerman has enjoyed a 20-year career in Washington government, serving as a public lawyer, regulator, and executive manager in the field of insurance and health policy. She began her state service as an assistant attorney general and was later appointed by Attorney General Rob McKenna. First elected in 2001 to serve in that role. She joined the Department of Labor and Industries, where she managed several programs including the self-insurance program. She joined the Office of the Insurance Commissioner in 2013 as the Deputy Director for Legal Affairs, and then assumed leadership of the Policy and Legislative Affairs division as well. In 2018, she was appointed by Commissioner Mike Kreider to be Chief Deputy Insurance Commissioner, the first woman in Washington to hold that role. She joined the Health Care Authority in 2021 as manager of the newly established Health Care Cost Transparency Board and is delighted at the opportunity to work with stakeholders and citizens to take on the rising cost of health care. Gellerman currently serves as a Board member for KVC Chance Washington, which provides educational scholarships to children and spouses of Washington workers permanently or fatally injured in a workplace accident. She lives in Olympia with her partner and her terrier, Rosie.

Tamarra Henshaw, Board Administrative Manager, healthcosttransparency@hca.wa.gov

Sue Birch, Director, Washington State Health Care Authority, Health Care Cost Transparency Board Chair, healthcosttransparency@hca.wa.gov

Mich'l Needham, Chief Policy Officer, Washington State Health Care Authority healthcosttransparency@hca.wa.gov

Bipartisan legislation passed in 2020, Second Substitute House Bill 2457, directs the creation of the Health Care Cost Transparency Board with responsibilities to:

1. Develop a statewide health care cost growth benchmark
2. Calculate and analyze statewide health care cost growth
3. Analyze drivers of health care cost growth
4. Submit annual reports to the governor and legislature

The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) will lead the administration of this program and support the board and the required advisory committees, one composed of health care providers and carriers, and one of data experts, that will be established by the board.

“I’m very excited about the relief we can provide businesses and families, and the room we can make for other social investments in the state. It wouldn’t be possible without the support of Peterson, Milbank, and other innovative state leaders.”

Sue Birch

Additional Policy Initiatives

- A health care cooperative purchasing group including public and private payers is beginning work to broadly align purchasing opportunities across programs and insurance markets with a primary care initiative.
- A coalition of state and local health departments, health care providers and payers, and a multi-stakeholder group are developing a regional data infrastructure and are implementing Cascade Care (the state’s public option health insurance program) in partnership with the Office of the Governor and the Washington Health Benefit Exchange.
- HCA is implementing a cost-sharing based purchasing (VBP) and works closely with contracted health plans and providers to implement new payment models and align payment standards with the Health Care Payment Learning & Action Network’s Alternative Payment Model Framework. HCA issues annual surveys to providers and health plans to track progress and gain insights on stakeholder experience with VBP.
- HCA’s Health Policy & Programs office is implementing a large-scale project and initiatives that center on multi-stakeholder engagement, including a $35 million State Innovation Models Test Grant, grant for a Medicaid demonstration waiver aimed at a delivery system transformation.
- HCA has established the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) to lead the administration of this program and support the board and the required advisory committees, one composed of health care providers and carriers, and one of data experts, that will be established by the board.