The Secret Sauce for Cross-Sector Collaboration

Stephanie Bultema, PhD
Director of MERLIN
Population Health Innovation Lab
Public Health Institute

Alison Poulsen
Executive Director
Better Health Together
The Northwest Center for Public Health Practice acknowledges the land we occupy today as the traditional home of the Tulalip, Muckleshoot, Duwamish and Suquamish tribal nations.

Without them we would not have access to this working, teaching and learning environment. We humbly take the opportunity to thank the original caretakers of this land who are still here.
Question for the Viewers

Within which of the following sectors does your organization need to focus more of its collaborative efforts?:

A. Public health (local, state, tribal)
B. Primary care
C. Social services
D. Other (type in chat)
Introduction
About the Population Health Innovation Lab (PHIL)

Based in the Public Health Institute (PHI), PHIL designs, catalyzes, and accelerates innovative approaches that advance health, well-being, and equity.

We focus on supporting the success and impact of health-focused multisector collaboratives through:

- Communications support
- Multisector collaborative development and support
- Meeting design and facilitation
- Research and evaluation
- Technical assistance
- Trainings and learning opportunities
With the help of 100 community partnerships, we are committed to radically improving the health of our 7 counties and 3 Tribal Reservations.

In our work, we:

- Tackle health inequities throughout eastern Washington
- Believe everyone deserves a fair shot at being healthy
- Find the best and most sustainable solutions to our most complex problems by stepping back and letting the local community lead
Our research explored how collaboration and alignment among public health, health care, and social service sectors — in partnership with community residents and tribal nations — leads to outcomes in 22 Accountable Communities of/for Health (ACH) in Washington and California.
ACHs are health-focused multisector collaboratives (MSCs) that create shared responsibility and accountability for the health of a community.
Multisector collaboratives (MSCs) are formed when multiple organizations in various sectors develop a systems-wide partnership to community-centered work.
Research Questions

RQ1.

How can elements of an MSC’s local context and collaboration dynamics be combined, enhanced, or mitigated to increase the likelihood of achieving effective outcomes?

RQ2.

When do certain configurations work, for whom, why, and under what conditions?
Complexity of Aligning Systems

Moving Parts

Connections

Contextual Factors

Focal Areas
A Note About Our Findings

- There are many important aspects of multisector collaboration that won’t be discussed today—that is *not* to say the other aspects aren’t important!

- We’re highlighting what our research has shown to be most essential when seeking to improve population health through multisector collaboration

- For more information on other important elements of multisector collaboration, see the links provided in the Resources section
The Secret Sauce for Aligning Systems

**Ingredients:**

1. Include diverse and representative perspectives in decision-making
2. Use equitable and inclusive arrangements
3. Ensure the collaborative work produces observable benefits
Question for the Viewers

Considering your own cross-sector collaboration, which elements of ‘the Secret Sauce’ does your organization currently do best?:

A. Including diverse and representative perspectives in decision-making
B. Using equitable and inclusive arrangements
C. Ensuring collaborative work produces observable benefits
D. Other (type in chat)
Better Health Together and the Secret Sauce
Strategic Areas and Activities

**Community Hub**

- Linking health care and social determinant of health services through a community-based workforce
  - Navigator Program
  - Care Connect Washington
  - Community Health Worker apprenticeship training program
  - HBE Navigator Program

**Whole Person Care Integration**

- Investing in primary care, behavioral health and oral health to ensure access and culturally relevant care for all
  - Behavioral Health Forum & Behavioral Health Workforce Initiatives
  - School-Based Health Care
  - WA Integrated Care Assessment
  - Community Linkages Fund

**Convening and Equity Movement Building**

- Organizing our power collectively to solve our most urgent and (sometimes) hidden equity needs
  - Equity Assessment and training
  - Community Resiliency Fund
  - Tribal Partners Collaborative
  - Youth Action Board
  - Community Voices Council
1. Include Diverse and Representative Perspectives in Decision-Making

**BHT’s current board** is comprised of 20 members from across sectors, backgrounds, and lived experience:

**Lived Experience**
- Childhood Poverty / previous
- Current Medicaid Provider
- Current Medicaid User
- Currently or formerly housed
- First language not English
- Foster involved
- Immigrant
- In Recovery / Substance Use
- Justice involved
- Person with disability
- Rural Living
- Veteran

**Racial Demographics**
- American Indian
- Black
- Caucasian, American Indian
- Japanese/Italian
- Latina
- Multi
- Native American
- Native American
- White
- White/Hispanic

**Representation**
- Additional Representation
- Behavioral Health
- Community Based Organizations
- Community Representation
- Criminal Justice
- Education
- Government
- Payer
- Philanthropy
- Practicing Provider
- Primary Care
- Public Health
- Social Determinants of Health
- Tribes and Native Health
- Youth and Young Adults
1. Include Diverse and Representative Perspectives in Decision-Making

- Community Voices Council
- Tribal Partners Council
- Youth Action Board
- Place-based Collaboratives

Both staff and Board prioritize input from Collaboratives – our champions for healthy people and thriving communities - to drive our vision to be the healthiest region in the state.
2. Use Equitable and Inclusive Arrangements

**Equity Assessment**

In 2022, total of 1,217 individuals from 57 different organizations participated in the Equity Assessment. The assessment was completely voluntary, and gave local organizations a chance to evaluate their own equity strategies with a regional lens.

**Highlights:**

- 13 of 42 items received a **green** rating (75% or more agreement), 8 received a **yellow** score (50-74% agreement), and 21 received a **red** rating (at least disagreement OR “I don’t know” responses).

**Focus**

- 70% of regional respondents report that their organization has “the right amount” of **focus** on addressing health equity but only 53% felt able to describe their organization’s health equity **goals**.

- 97% of regional respondents agree that it is important to understand the beliefs and values of the community members their organizations serve.

**Equity 101**

BHT’s Equity 101 training supports mission and service-based institutions that work with the community in learning the importance of using equity and anti-racism informed practices.

**Pay for Equity**

BHT has supported an Equity in HR learning cohort, and incorporated equity components in our contracts with partners, and funded RFPs with equity and anti-racism focuses.
2. Use Equitable and Inclusive Arrangements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$6m</th>
<th>Total dollars into the community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>focused on, but not solely, serving our Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color in Spokane to prevent, mitigate, and repair the impacts of systemic racism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>focused, but not solely, on serving persons justice-involved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>focused on, but not solely, serving members of the LGBTQIA2S+ community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>funded as an activist building and supporting organization, working against systemic and intrinsically racist policies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Community Resiliency Fund
3. Ensure the Collaborative Efforts Produce Measurable Results

Collaboratives participated in an outcome-based process:

1. Identify Priority Issues and Populations
2. Identify Specific Strategies
3. Develop Implementation Plan
4. Develop Measurement and Communication Plan
5. Implementation
6. Review and Refine
3. Ensure the Collaborative Efforts Produce Measurable Results

**County Priorities**

**Pend Oreille:** Improving youth mental health
  - Currently tracking output, reduction in “bad” mental health days for youth grades 9-10 in next Healthy Youth survey

**Stevens:** Improving access to services and shelter during emergencies
  - Currently building pallet homes, 14 homes is the goal

**Ferry:** Improving suicide prevention
  - In process; 150 trainings is the goal

**Lincoln:** Improving preventative care
  - In process, 5 schools is the goal

**Adams:** Improving access to primary care
  - 1 mobile medical unit is ready to be deployed to track patient data/services
2022 Partner Impact Stories

The Carl Maxey Center

“The DOC Navigator Services grant has been a huge benefit, allowing community members to have a safe space where they can work with a navigator who is a part of the community being served. The grant has also provided an opportunity for us to get direct information from community members on the needs of the community being served, informing our programming.”

“As a community Navigator, I’ve been told by several different community members how thankful they are to be able to meet with someone in person who has taken the time to listen and work with them.”

- Bobby, Carl Maxey Center

Hispanic Business Professionals Association

“We can now offer an in-house healthcare navigator - an essential service for our community! Our healthcare navigator has also gone to HBPA member businesses to assist staff through WA Health plan finder, and is currently going through additional training to assist folks in finding other options if they don’t qualify for Medicare. They are also able to help individuals with disabilities navigate the Social Security System and apply for benefits.”

“For our next phase, we are now looking to add to our in-house capacity. We have become official partners with DSHS and begin our training soon.”

- Fernanda Mazcot, Hispanic Business Professionals Association

Peer Spokane

“The CCW COVID Care grant has allowed Peer Spokane to provide those impacted by the pandemic with food, water, cleaning supplies, PPE, and essential bill money that have lessened the burden on our community and given families the time they need to recover without fear of financial hardship or food insecurity. Our membership has increased due to our partnership with Care Connect Washington and BHT, and members of the local community are benefiting not only from the essential benefits of the CCW program but also from the Peer support they are receiving from Peer Spokane.”

- Andrew Leonard, CPC, Peer Spokane
✓ **Diverse inclusion** requires dedicated resources and intentional trust-building

✓ **Arrangements** can be used to intentionally shape collaboration, which helps to ensure outcomes aren’t left to chance

✓ **Benefits** often start at the participant level and move to the population level

✓ Dedicated support for multisector collaboration (e.g., through a backbone function or network leader) can help ensure these key ingredients are used and sustained when aligning sectors for health
QUESTIONS?

To ask a question, please click the icon in the Zoom toolbar to open your Q&A Pod.
Appendix: Improving Population Health through Multisector Collaboration
Population Health Innovation Lab (PHIL)
https://pophealthinnovationlab.org/aligning-brief-series/

Powering Change Curriculum
Population Health Innovation Lab (PHIL)
https://pophealthinnovationlab.org/resources/powering-change-curriculum/

Aligning Systems for Health Data Walk
Population Health Innovation Lab (PHIL)
https://pophealthinnovationlab.org/data-walk/

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Framework for Aligning Sectors
https://www.alignforhealth.org/framework/

Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory
An Integrative Framework for Collaborative Governance (Article)
https://academic.oup.com/jpart/article/22/1/1/944908

Funders Forum on Accountable Health
Accountable Communities for Health
https://accountablehealth.gwu.edu/