



**Version Date:** November 30, 2020

## **Health Equity Charter**

### **Background**

Formally established in July 2020, the Health Equity Committee is tasked with understanding health disparities and developing strategies to ensure health equity for all AHCCCS members<sup>1</sup>. This committee is responsible for overseeing and managing recommendations as they relate to policy, data, health plan oversight and emerging health care innovation strategies for over 2 million Arizonans.

Healthy People 2020 defines health equity as the “attainment of the highest level of health for all people. Achieving health equity requires valuing everyone equally with focused and ongoing societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities, historical and contemporary injustices, and the elimination of health and health care disparities.”

### **Goals**

- Understand health disparities among the AHCCCS membership.
- Effectuate policy changes and support the implementation of strategies for positive improvement where known disparities exist, creating opportunities for the more equitable provision of services and supports.
- Raise the visibility of AHCCCS’ commitment to health equity and the strategies in place to ensure the equitable provision of services and supports.
- Improve health outcomes for AHCCCS members.
- Identify challenges and barriers that AHCCCS members have in accessing covered services.

### **Scope**

This committee is responsible for identifying health disparities among AHCCCS-eligible individuals and members by using AHCCCS utilization and quality improvement data to

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<sup>1</sup> Populations include: Managed Care (ACC, ALTCS EPD and DDD, CMDP, KidsCare, Duals, members determined to be SMI) Fee-For-Service (including Federal Emergency Services, AIHP, Tribal ALTCS, members determined to be SMI), uninsured/underinsured individuals, MSP-QMB, Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program (BCCTP), individuals eligible for block and discretionary grants.

advance policy and/or contracting strategies to improve the health equity of AHCCCS' populations and programs. This committee will communicate existing health equity strategies currently being implemented by the agency, identify needed improvements to existing strategies (if appropriate), develop and/or evaluate key metrics, and articulate future interventions aimed at eliminating health disparities.

This committee is not responsible for health disparities as it relates to the external or internal workforce.

### Committee Structure

Interim Chair (October 2020-January 2021)	Jakenna Lebsock, Assistant Director, Division of Healthcare Management
Committee Chair	Markay Adams, Assistant Director, Division of Fee-For-Service Management
Executive Sponsor	Jami Snyder, Director
Project Support	Shelli Silver, Deputy Director of Healthcare Operations
Project Managers	Alexa Kaumaya; Kayla Horton
Committee Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Division of Community Advocacy and Intergovernmental Relations (DCAIR)</b> - Itzel Cordova, Amanda Bahe</li> <li>● <b>Division of Fee-For-Service Management (DFSM)</b> - Leslie Short, Rachel Hunter</li> <li>● <b>Division of Healthcare Management (DHCM)</b> - Eric Powell, Rohno Geppert</li> <li>● <b>Division of Member and Provider Services (DMPS)</b> - Dareth Cox, Robert Burke</li> <li>● <b>Human Resources and Development (HRD)</b> - Lavonne Rosales</li> <li>● <b>Information Services Division (ISD)</b> - Anthony Flot</li> </ul>

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- **Office of Administrative Legal Services (OALS )-**  
Susan Russo
  - **Office of the Director (OOD)-** Dr. Satya Sarma, Zeruiah Buchanan
  - **Division of Grants Administration (DGA) -**Hazel Alvarenga
  - **Office of Inspector General (OIG) -** Robin Cole
  - **Division of Business & Finance (DBF) -** CharuKumar, Shannon Cogburn

- This list is inclusive of all AHCCCS divisions. Membership will be reviewed on an annual basis. Each division will have at least one representative but no more than two members on the committee, excluding committee leadership and staff.

### **Milestones**

- The committee held five public forums in September and October 2020
- The committee charter will be finalized November 2020
- Preliminary recommendations for baseline data to be established and recommended to the director in December 2020
- The committee will start forming interventions based on data results in the Spring of 2021

### **Guiding Principles**

The Health Equity Committee will work to understand current AHCCCS initiatives, develop baseline data, make recommendations to decrease health disparities and promote health equity, while avoiding duplication of efforts. The Health Equity Committee will make recommendations that are data-driven and inclusive of Arizona communities and populations throughout the state. This group will share best practices and lessons learned in the area of health equity in an effort to be transparent and embrace continuous improvement.

**Approval Signatures**



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Jami Snyder,  
Executive Sponsor

Jakenna  
Lebsock

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Lebsock  
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Jakenna Lebsock,  
Interim Committee  
Chair