



Created: November 30, 2020

Revision: June 16, 2021

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 members¹. 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 2030](#) 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 within the AHCCCS members.
- 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.

¹ 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.



Scope

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

Committee Chair	Markay Adams, Assistant Director, Division of Fee-For-Service Management
Committee Co-Chair	Jakenna Lebsock, Assistant Director, Division of Health Care Management
Executive Sponsor	Jami Snyder, Director
Project Support	Shelli Silver, Deputy Director of Health Plan Operations
Project Managers	Alexa Kaumaya; Kayla Kleissle
Committee Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Division of Community Advocacy and Intergovernmental Relations (DCAIR) - Lia Ballesteros, Amanda Bahe ● Division of Fee-For-Service Management (DFSM) - Leslie Short, Rachel Hunter, Dr. Satya Sarma ● Division of Health Care Management (DHCM) – Michael Lipscomb, Rohno Geppert, Itzel Cordova



- **Division of Member and Provider Services (DMPS)** - Dareth Cox, Robert Burke
 - **Human Resources and Development (HRD)** - Lavonne Rosales
 - **Information Services Division (ISD)** - Anthony Flot
 - **Office of Administrative Legal Services (OALS)** - Susan Russo
 - **Office of the Director (OOD)** - Cameron Adams, Terry Magden
 - **Division of Grants Administration (DGA)** - Hazel Alvarenga, Zeruiyah Buchanan
 - **Office of Inspector General (OIG)** - Robin Cole
 - **Division of Business & Finance (DBF)** - Charu Kumar, 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.



AHCCCS
HEALTH EQUITY
COMMITTEE

Approval Signatures



Jami Snyder,
Executive Sponsor

Jakenna
Lebsock

Digitally signed by Jakenna
Lebsock
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Jakenna Lebsock,
Interim Committee
Chair