



Population Health Trust June Newsletter

Community Advisory Board to the Skagit County Board of Health

June 2024

There is a time in all our lives when we need to seek out medical attention. When we do, we may take for granted that the provider speaks our language, understands our needs, and provides instructions in a way that we can easily understand. Unfortunately, for many in our community, this is not their experience.

At the Population Health Trust (PHT), we recognize the importance of access to care for a person's health and wellbeing. In response, "Access to Care" was identified as a priority area in the recent [COVID Recovery Plan](#). The goals and strategies of this priority area are focused on reducing barriers to care such as language, cultural differences, and transportation challenges.

AC3 Health education via social media and health care champions is provided in residents' languages and based on their needs.

A recent collaboration between the PHT, [Community Action of Skagit County](#) and [Evergreen Goodwill of Northwest Washington](#) focused attention on strategy AC3 (left) from the plan.

This collaborative initiative was led by Marissa Davison, a Community Action staff member who interned with the PHT as part of her master's in public health (MPH) program. The outcome of the project was to better understand the barriers Latine populations encounter when accessing care.

The project was co-created with [Community Action's Latinx Advisory Committee](#) (LAC), a group charged with advising decision makers through public policy listening sessions, on how to better serve and develop leadership among low-income Latina/o community members. The LAC helped

inform the development of a toolkit for focus groups with the Latine community, including recommendations for questions that should be asked during the sessions.

Two focus groups were conducted with participants enrolled in a language skills workshop, one with Community Action and the other with Evergreen Goodwill of Northwest Washington. Participants shared stories of their own challenges and offered feedback on improvements to the current system that could provide them with greater access to care. This is the first part of a series of focus groups that will be conducted later this year to better understand the challenges that individuals encounter when accessing care. Look for additional updates in future newsletters.

Thank you for your partnership in keeping Skagit County healthy!



The Population Health Trust was founded in 2015 and is the Community Advisory Board to the Skagit County Board of Health. For more information, check out our [website](#).

[Population Health Trust](#)

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