



Population Health Trust October Newsletter

Community Advisory Board to the Skagit County Board of Health October 2024

Wow, September just zipped by! We were so busy preparing for our annual Powerful Partnerships event, that we forgot to get a newsletter out to everyone. Consider this a special edition newsletter to make up for it.



A heart-felt thank you to everyone who attended Powerful Partnerships this year. It was wonderful to have so many people join as we celebrated the impact of collaboration in building a thriving Skagit. While there was much to learn and many great takeaways from both the breakout sessions and the panel presentation, for many, the highlight of the evening were the awards.

This year the Trust and its partners were honored to recognize **Linden Jordan** of [PFLAG Skagit](#), as our **2024 Skagit Change Maker** for his incredible impact on our community.

Linden recently shared his thoughts on the topic of health equity; an issue of vital importance for 2SLGBTQIA+ (Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual) community. He expressed that “we are in a period of intense backlash and focus on the transgender/gender diverse community. This creates an environment of actual physical danger and contributes to the need to be less visible. This equates to a fear of seeking medical care.”

Nearly a quarter (24%) of transgender patients did not see a doctor when they needed to due to fear of mistreatment. - 2022 U.S. Trans Survey

There are many barriers individuals may experience when accessing care. These barriers may be due to difference in language, a polarized culture, or a lack of understanding. Additional barriers can be a result of poverty, lack of affordable insurance, or even transportation.

Linden sees health equity as a state where **everyone** has access to culturally relevant health care. To achieve this level of care, he believes that “the fundamental foundation is kindness and a willingness to see the healthcare experience from the patient's perspective.”

To increase understanding and inclusivity in our community, education is a key goal for PFLAG Skagit. The organization has an active Speakers Bureau that offers informational seminars to help broaden perspectives and create welcoming environments for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. To learn more about [PFLAG's](#) work in Skagit, please visit their website or consider becoming a member.

“It takes a great deal of courage to be out in the world as a transgender child, teen, adult. It is my hope that our public health system can work to convey the message that we see you and are here for you. Lead with love.” - Linden Jordan, PFLAG Skagit

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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