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## Gary Renville invites input, plans new initiatives

### New executive director feels personal connection to patients in poverty

New executive director Gary Renville brings to Project Access Northwest a wide range of leadership skills and experience with nonprofits. His career includes a decade in education, as both an elementary school teacher and administrator, and then a variety of positions with nonprofit organizations — including the Points of Light Foundation and the National Kidney Foundation — where he specialized in raising donations and mobilizing volunteers. **But perhaps what qualifies him most to take the helm is his personal experience with poverty and how hard it is to navigate a health care system without insurance.**

"I was really drawn to the mission of this organization, and that goes back to my own story," he explains. "I grew up in a family of poverty and while fortunately I overcame that for myself, my mother didn't overcome that in her lifetime. When she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, we faced all the challenges of how to navigate the system, find resources and get the care she needed."

Gary became a staunch advocate for his mom at social services agencies and Medicaid offices, fighting to get the benefits she qualified for in a timely manner. As her primary caregiver and companion, he did all he could to make the last months of her life as comfortable as possible.

"So it's that mix of my own upbringing and understanding the struggles of individuals and families who are living in poverty— knowing why

people go to the emergency department rather than a primary care physician—that make me feel connected to the work of Project Access Northwest," Gary reflects. "And I want to do anything I can to help that population and also to increase the number of volunteer physicians who serve those in need."

### Gaining insight, gaining weight!

Gary has spent his first couple of months reaching out to partners, sponsors, providers and other stakeholders to get their insights on Project Access Northwest through a series of breakfast, lunch and dinner meetings.

"I've probably gained five pounds with this approach," he joked. "But I'm not done yet."

**Gary invites all who are connected to Project Access Northwest to reach out, meet him and share their stories and ideas.**

"Your next meal is on me!"

### Finding a voice in the national conversation

In the meantime, Gary has started to share his own vision for the organization, which includes having a more active social media presence, building a robust volunteer program, increasing interaction with the program's patients, and becoming more vocal in the ongoing health care debate.

"I envision us being a more vocal, activist brand," he says. "I'd like to further position us as experts in the health care conversation. There is heightened

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## Swedish moves dental program referrals in house

### Project Access Northwest seeks new, sustainable opportunities to support dental care



*Swedish Community Specialty Clinic is continuing to serve King County's low-income and uninsured dental patients through direct referrals.*

June 30, 2017 marked a big change for Project Access Northwest, as it suspended its King County dental referral program and helped transition that service to be managed internally by **Swedish Community Specialty Clinic (SCSC)**. The SCSC was developed in 2011 in partnership with Project Access Northwest to help patients who could not access specialized medical care due to lack of insurance and inability to pay for their care. With the help of a grant from **Pacific Hospital PDA**, dental services were added in 2012 to address a growing need.

"Unfortunately, Project Access Northwest was unable to secure diversified funding after

the Pacific Hospital PDA grant came to a close," explains Executive Director Gary Renville. "There remains a great need for this essential service, but our role was not sustainable without continued funding from other supporters."

Since 2012, dental cases grew to encompass more than half of Project Access Northwest's referrals, reflecting the huge, unmet need in our region. Severe dental pain is one of the top reasons underserved patients visit an emergency room. Many of these patients have repeat visits at great expense, when they could have been treated much more effectively at a dental clinic. While SCSC will manage referrals directly now in King County, Project Access Northwest is looking for new and innovative ways to help address the unmet need to dental care.

### Dental program evolves, adapts

While Project Access Northwest continues to manage **Northwest Kidney Center** clients who need clearance for kidney transplants and also supports the **Snohomish dental program**, it will seek new, innovative and sustainable ways to help deliver dental care to low-income patients. Avenues we are exploring include offering restorative care, which is in high demand and has a great impact on quality of life.

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## THANK YOU, CellNetix: Leading the way in our fall fundraiser



Our long-time sponsor **CellNetix** — which has provided pathology-related services for Project Access Northwest at no cost since 2009 — has stepped up in a new way this year, offering a \$5,000 matching grant to help us kick off our second annual **Fall Fundraising Challenge**.

"CellNetix is excited to partner with Project Access Northwest and be part of the solution for those patients mutually served by our organizations," says Jonathan Mayo, vice president of Sales, Marketing and Business Development at CellNetix. "Excellence in patient care, every diagnosis, every day is our mission, and we work to provide this service to as many in our communities as possible."

**Join us in our race to 15K IN 15 DAYS! See back panel.**



## Welcome new board member D. Chris Douglas, MBA, CMPE



**D. Chris Douglas,**  
MBA, CMPE

Project Access Northwest is delighted to welcome **D. Chris Douglas, MBA, CMPE** to its board of directors. For more than two decades, Chris has served as president and CEO of Douglas Healthcare Consulting LLC, a national firm serving physician practices, hospitals and integrated delivery systems. Her specialties include physician practice management, financial turnarounds, integration planning, project management and strategic planning for medical groups, hospitals and integrated delivery systems. Earlier in her career, Chris was executive director for Edmonds Center for Outpatient Surgery & Edmonds Orthopedic Center, a division of Proliance Surgeons, PS. She also served as chief executive officer for Overlake Internal Medicine Associates for nearly 13 years, where she led a successful financial and operational turnaround. Chris earned her law degree at the University of Washington and a master's degree from University of Kansas before pursuing a second master's degree in business administration from Rockhurst College.



### SHARE YOUR GIFTS OF TIME AND TALENT

Volunteers are vital to our vision that everyone in our community will have access to appropriate health care services. Current opportunities include positions on our IT & compliance committee and on our development and marketing committee. We are also searching for a volunteer dental coordinator. **For more information, contact development director, Melissa Johnson at [melissaj@projectaccessnw.org](mailto:melissaj@projectaccessnw.org), or 206.496.1591.**

## Dental Program update

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### What's next?

**Arcora Foundation**, formerly Washington Dental Service Foundation, has awarded Project Access Northwest a planning grant of \$15,000 to help us explore these new options. Initial planning is underway for a "dental summit" to assess needs, barriers, possibilities and funding opportunities. Attendees may include: Public Health—Seattle & King County; UW Dental Residency; Puget Sound Christian Clinic; Northwest Kidney Centers; Seattle King County Dental Society; Arcora Foundation; selected board members and staff.

*If you would like to volunteer for or learn more about this project, please contact Gary Renville at 206.788.4204 or [garyr@projectaccessnw.org](mailto:garyr@projectaccessnw.org).*

## Gary Renville invites input

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concern about health care, and people are fired up."

"I want them to know we're fired up too!" Gary adds. "Whatever happens on the national level, we know our services will be needed. We'll be here to make sure people aren't falling through the cracks."

Gary is also very committed to increasing volunteerism and civic engagement. Following the Points of Light Foundation model, he wants Project Access Northwest to become a "service enterprise," which will embrace volunteer contributions across all levels of the organization.

"Trained volunteers can fundamentally help the business of the organization," explains Gary. "Beyond answering phones, volunteers can take on key jobs—like recruiting and training volunteers—allowing staff more time to focus on their core work."

These are just a few of the ideas likely to become part of a new strategic plan now in development.

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**R**EADY, SET, GO! We're racing to \$15K in 15 days, and we need you on our team. Get your donation in early to take advantage of the dollar-for-dollar match up to \$5,000 offered by **CellNetix!** **Donate today and double your impact!**

**Here are three great ways you can help:**

- **Sponsor a patient... at half price.** With CellNetix's matching grant, you can sponsor a patient for just \$162.50 — half our regular care coordination cost.
- **Set up monthly autopay** of just \$13.50 to change one patient's life this year.
- **Choose any amount you can give.** All gifts count toward our \$15,000 goal.

**DID YOU KNOW** Project Access Northwest delivers a huge return on health care dollars? A recent study of our gastroenterology patients revealed that \$325 in care coordination returns \$3,480 in treatment—a 1070% return on investment.

Please use enclosed envelope or visit [projectaccessnw.org](http://projectaccessnw.org) to donate. **THANK YOU!**

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**OUR MISSION**

*Project Access Northwest collaborates with the health care community to open doors to medical and dental care for low-income individuals with limited access.*

**We invite your comments and questions.**  
*Visit [www.projectaccessnw.org](http://www.projectaccessnw.org) to learn more.*

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