

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT DECISION:

A Project Access Northwest perspective

By Sallie Neillie, Executive Director

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision to uphold the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was a great step, but certainly not the last step, in the work ahead. The November election results will impact how the ACA is implemented. State budget limitations will affect implementation as well. Here's a quick glimpse at the recent decision from Project Access Northwest's perspective.

More people in Washington will have health insurance.

The state Medicaid enrollment may increase by up to 42 percent, with expanded coverage that includes low-income adults without severe disabilities or dependent children. The state estimates enrolling another 170,000 individuals (mostly children) who qualify. The ACA also allows parents to keep their children under age 26 on their insurance coverage; 62,000 young adults in Washington gained insurance coverage as a result of the ACA.

Insurance exchanges will provide people with incomes between 134 percent and 400 percent of FPL (federal poverty level) the opportunity to purchase subsidized health insurance, without regard to pre-existing conditions.

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (www.healthcare.gov/law/resources/wa.html) has a good online article, "How the Health Care Law is Making a Difference for the People of Washington."

Primary care access will have to expand.

Increased demand, an aging baby boomer population and lagging growth in the number of physicians will make primary care access a challenge. In addition, there are wide differences in access across the state, with 40 percent of the primary care doctors practicing in King County. More than half of them are over the age of 50.

Dental Care will still be a challenge.

While the ACA will help address many issues, dental care is still just an option for Medicaid coverage (each state will decide individually). At this point, adult dental care isn't included in Washington Medicaid. The coverage was eliminated a few years ago, and we continue to see an increasing need for dental access and specialty dental access in our region.

There will still be 23 million uninsured people in the U.S.

Even after the full phase-in of Medicaid expansion and insurance changes, there will be 23 million people who will remain uninsured. Six million are undocumented and not eligible for coverage in the ACA.

The Project Access model works for Medicaid patients as well as the uninsured.

Effective case management and efficient referrals will help with the increased need for access. By

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Project Access Solution: Our volunteers

UPDATE: Dental care specialty referrals

Anne (not her real name) is a homeless Native American young woman, 21 years old. She has visited community health centers, dental clinics and urgent care clinics or hospital emergency rooms dozens of times for pain and swelling. With one appointment at the Swedish Community Specialty Care Dental Clinic, two teeth were extracted, and the swelling and pain disappeared. She has not utilized clinic or emergency room resources since her treatment and is actively working to stay off pain medication.

Project Access Northwest began coordinating dental specialty services in Fall 2011. Through a partnership with Swedish Medical Center, Seattle-King County Dental Society & Dental Foundation, the Swedish Community Specialty Clinic, Pacific Hospital Preservation & Development Authority and Washington Dental Service Foundation, uninsured patients who need specialty dental care are now getting the dental care they desperately need.

In the first two quarters of 2012, we

have more than doubled the number of patients referred from the safety net clinics for specialty dental care (100 to 231). For patients receiving care in safety net clinics, dental care can make a huge difference in their lives.

"Even patients who are barely engaged in our community—perhaps they're going to meal programs and really struggling, or living in the woods somewhere—have been able to use Project Access Northwest.



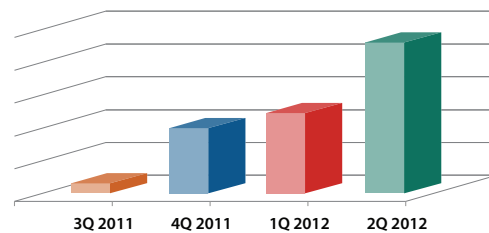
Moffett Burgess

It's very unusual for a community to have this level of access for specialty dental care," says Moffett Burgess, a dentist at the Downtown Public Health Dental Clinic.

In addition, Project Access Northwest has provided specialty dental care referrals for nearly 20 kidney dialysis patients. Patients needing a kidney transplant must receive dental clearance and treatment before they can be placed on the transplant list.

Dental patients referred to Project Access Northwest

(3Q2010 – 2Q2012)



The number of patients referred for dental specialty care has doubled in one year.

We're still compiling data on this relatively new program, but at this point we know that all of the patients being referred to us live in King County. Nearly 10 percent of them are homeless at the time of referral. Dental treatment can make a huge difference in getting patients back on their feet. As Dr. Burgess says, "We hear a lot of patients who say, 'I've got a job interview coming up and I want to get this dental work done, because I know what's going to happen if I come in with a missing front tooth. They're going to look at me and judge me, and I'm never going to get that job! You are more likely to get a job if you're missing a limb than if you're missing a front tooth. You can't live a normal life without the dental care we're providing."

Project Access Solution: Workplace giving programs

Are you a city, county or state employee?

If you are, you can easily make a gift to Project Access Northwest through an employee giving campaign!

City of Seattle Employees

The Seattle Shares Employee Giving & Volunteer program is a year-round opportunity for City employees to make a gift to Project Access Northwest.

ONLINE: You can begin your deductions immediately by creating them online at Employee Self Service: selfservice.ci.seattle.wa.us/SeattleShares.

ON PAPER: You can contact Personnel for a hard copy of the payroll deduction form. Write to Seattle Shares at SMT-55-00 or email Employee.Giving@Seattle.Gov. Additional copies are available on the InWeb at inweb/charities/CC_Info.htm. Contact Seattle Shares at 206.684.8363 or Employee.Giving@Seattle.Gov.

King County Employee Giving Program

The Annual Giving Drive will be held September 24–November 16 this year, and the Non-Profit Expos are scheduled September 20–October 11. Project Access Northwest will be represented at the expo. Check our Facebook page for specific time and location. Remember to make your gift to Project Access Northwest #9373. If you have questions about the drive, contact Junelle Kroontje, Administrator, at 206.263.9405 or junelle.kroontje@kingcounty.gov.

State of Washington Combined Fund Drive

The Combined Fund Drive (CFD) is Washington State's workplace giving

Project Access Solution: Our donors

Thank you, Boeing Employees Community Fund, for our improved phone system!

Beginning in late August, Project Access Northwest's entire staff will have improved telephone technology making us more efficient, thanks to

a very generous donation from The Employees Community Fund (or ECF) of The Boeing Company. The ECF is a unique employee-

owned and directed giving program that allows employees to support the needs of their local communities via tax-deductible recurring payroll deductions or one-time gifts. Case managers who are at their desks and on the phone 90 percent of their day will benefit from the ergonomically appropriate chairs and wireless headsets that were also approved as part of the grant. We feel very fortunate to have received this grant and to have The Boeing Company as a major sponsor of Project Access Northwest.

Grateful patient is also a donor

Mary (not her real name) is a former Project Access Northwest patient who became a donor this year—something she never thought possible. With the help of Project Access, she had her cataracts removed, allowing her to go back to work and become financially stable again. She recently sent us a donation with the following note:

"(In 2011,) because of advancing cataracts, I took a bad fall down four concrete steps onto the sole of my right foot. Nothing was broken, but (Project Access Northwest's case manager) lined up a Group Health physical therapist who helped me to walk again.

"I worked with the physical therapist for a year, and then she approached Project Access about my cataracts, and I was able to have surgery. I haven't seen the world so clearly since childhood! The green-yellow veil, which made night driving impossible, is gone. Best of all, I can see the faces of loved ones again! You can't know the joy of it!

"Please accept this donation to further your work; I'm delighted to know you've expanded to Snohomish County. Thank you again."

We know that it isn't possible for every patient to make a gift to Project Access Northwest, and we're always glad to help our patients, but Mary's letter and gift are very much appreciated!

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working with safety net and specialty providers, Project Access Northwest has helped to define the information providers need for an effective referral and visit. Case management dramatically reduces the patient no-show rate. More than 95 percent of Project Access patients keep their appointments, compared to fewer than 70 percent in typical uninsured populations.

We look forward to solving these challenges with the providers and health care partners who have stepped forward to support the work of Project Access Northwest. Their knowledge, support and genuine concern for the patients we all serve have made Project Access Northwest a success we all share.

program for active and retired public employees. State and higher education employees are invited to give to the charity of their choice through payroll contribution and agency fundraising events. A state employee can make a donation to Project Access Northwest safely and easily through the CFD's online system, or with a paper contribution form. Go to www.cfd.wa.gov and search for Charity Code #1480962.

And, for you Federal employees...

We will likely be eligible for the **Combined Federal Campaign** in 2013. In the meantime, feel free to make a contribution to Project Access Northwest by mail or on our website www.projectaccessnw.org!

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Congratulations to all our "Top Docs"

Each year for the last 12 years, Seattle Magazine has published the Top Docs issue. More than 18,000 local physicians nominated their peers to this list, which is a great resource for anyone looking for a specialist. Since Project Access Northwest began in 2006, we have been delighted to see many of our volunteer specialty care providers' names on the list. This year, 61 of our doctors have been recognized as Top Docs and we're pleased to list them here. It's important to note, however, that we think all of our docs are tops - - we couldn't do what we do without them. So, when you see any of your health care providers don't forget to tell them how much you appreciate what they do and how they help to keep our community healthy!

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Project Access Solutions: Board leadership

Welcome new board members!



Laurel Lee is Vice President of Provider Network Management and Operations for Molina Healthcare of Washington, Inc. In this position Laurel manages the Health Plan Provider Network Management and Operations Department. Her responsibilities include developing and implementing network strategy designed to establish a high quality, cost effective network of providers sufficient to serve the health care needs of the Plan's membership.



Susan Peskura is Associate Vice President of Sales and Account Management at Physicians Insurance: A MUTUAL COMPANY, based in Seattle. In this role she develops and administers sales goals and creates and monitors protocols for relationships with physicians, clinic managers, medical societies and others in the healthcare field.

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We invite your comments and questions.
Visit www.projectaccessnw.org to learn more.

Special thanks to Molina Healthcare
for its support in publishing this newsletter.

GO GREEN! To receive this newsletter and other Project Access Northwest updates via email, call Aileen 206-788-4204, ext. 109 and let her know your preference. Or just send us an email at info@projectaccessnw.org. Thanks for helping us go greener and save on postage!