

The Washtenaw Health Initiative (WHI) is a voluntary, county-wide collaboration of local leaders and organizations working to improve health, health equity, and health care across Washtenaw County.

WHI members and leaders place special emphasis on the health of Washtenaw County's low-income, uninsured, under-insured and underrepresented populations, employing research, evidence, innovation, and other practices to improve health care and health. The WHI approaches this work with a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) lens, attending to DEI on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

To achieve these objectives, the Washtenaw Health Initiative (WHI) brings together hundreds of individuals from more than 100 Charter Member organizations across many sectors in Washtenaw County to:

- a) incubate innovative ideas,
- b) develop and manage new projects and assessments,
- c) foster and facilitate health collaborations, and
- d) inform and influence policy.

Over the next four years, the WHI will look to address gaps in four priority areas, including:

- 1) behavioral health, including mental health and substance use services,
- 2) senior services, including services intended to help seniors age in place,
- 3) the social determinants of health (poverty, food insecurity, housing, transportation, education), and
- 4) access to care.

By signing this Statement of Commitment, [NAME OF ORGANIZATION] acknowledges the importance of the WHI's mission and goals and recognizes that local success will depend upon the active engagement of all sectors of our community.

The undersigned organization pledges to work with the Washtenaw Health Initiative and other Charter Members to collaboratively develop and implement solutions that will improve health, health equity, and health care across the county. The undersigned further acknowledges that these objectives are time-sensitive and will require continuous momentum to accomplish meaningful change.

To achieve the momentum required, the undersigned organization will provide in-kind contributions, which will help the WHI identify opportunities for improved access to health care and social supports.

As a show of commitment, the undersigned organization also agrees to assign staff to participate in appropriate WHI activities and conversations, such as quarterly stakeholders meetings and ongoing work group activities focused on:

- strengthening community-wide partnerships to improve health and health equity;
- fostering collaborations to more efficiently and effectively utilize resources, connect shared clients to the services they require, and promote equitable access to care;

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- identifying community-wide gaps and strengthening community-wide efforts to improve care and services for behavioral health and other select health issues or select populations;
- addressing structural causes of health inequity, for example housing discrimination, uninsurance, and policies and practices with racially discriminatory effects;
- aligning and improving systems to better integrate medical, behavioral, and social services for clients;
- maximizing insurance coverage across Washtenaw County; and
- consistently reassessing the internal composition of the WHI to ensure that our organization reflects the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

In return, the Washtenaw Health Initiative pledges to recognize [NAME OF ORGANIZATION] as a Charter Member, entitling it to:

- provide input on the goals and direction of our work together,
- use the WHI as a resource to advance initiatives or problem-solve concerns,
- communicate regularly with other Charter Members working to improve health,
- review a steady stream of information about current and emerging health trends and priorities, and
- share mission-relevant news with other Charter Members through the WHI's communications vehicles.

Name of Charter Member Organization

Charter Member Representative (date)

Printed Name

Sharon Moore - WHI Co-chair (date)

Brent Williams - WHI Co-chair (date)