



North Sound ACH

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Our Year in Review

North Sound Accountable Community of Health (ACH) and its partners accomplished so much in 2021:

- Close to sixty clinical and community based organizations completed their third year of implementing the Medicaid Transformation Project (MTP). North Sound ACH team and partners helped with design of a statewide integrated care assessment process, which will begin implementation in 2022.
- During the two years of COVID, the North Sound ACH Community Hub connected organizations and more than 5,000 people impacted by COVID to vital resources, such as food, rapid COVID-19 tests, rental assistance, and more.
- In November 2021 heavy rainfall resulted in major flooding and landslides impacting the North Sound region, especially the eastern parts of Whatcom and Skagit counties, resulting in significant loss of personal property, homes, and livelihoods for many individuals. North Sound ACH was involved with direct response to partner organizations, convening and coordinating joint efforts to support community members impacted by the floods.
- While partners continued their work, CEO Liz Baxter and the Board of Directors re-imagined North Sound ACH and its evolving role into the future. At the August 2021 Partner Retreat, we formally introduced the North Sound Collaborative Action Network – a process of co-design and co-creation of efforts driven by local and regional knowledge, to create new legacies and conditions that ensure a sense of belonging for all people who call this region home.

Left Photo (shown left to right): Lona Johnson (Nooksack), Health Department Director; Michaela Vendiola (Walker River Paiute and Swinomish), Tribal and Community Liaison North Sound ACH; Barbara Juarez (Lummi), Executive Director, Northwest Washington Indian Health Board; Liz Baxter, Executive Director, North Sound ACH; Candice Wilson (Lummi), Executive Director, Lhaq'temish Foundation. **Right Photo (clockwise from left):** Marta Dominguez of SeaMar Community Health Centers, Marco Morales and Vanessa Diaz of North Sound ACH, and Marta Martinez of Catholic Community Services.

Connect. Coordinate. Collaborate.

Rapid Response in Action

What Does That Look Like?

- Specialized food boxes for farmworker families, reflecting the culture and cooking of Latinx families, filled with foods grown locally by Latinx farmers (funding for food boxes and distribution with partners).
- More than 5,200 hours of activities designed to engage and expand young minds, foster physical, cognitive, social and emotional growth all in a safe, fun environment — the equivalent of providing four families with year-round care for their child while their parents work (funding and COVID supplies for the Snohomish YMCA).
- Over 600 individual rapid tests into the hands of low-income individuals in Skagit county (organized and collaborated at local food banks and migrant farmworker health fairs).

Flood Assistance, and the Community Response That Arose From It:

While the need for a rapid response to emergencies and disasters was part of the plan for growth in 2022, North Sound ACH staff and partners stepped up when the time came sooner. In November 2021, an atmospheric river system flooded apartments, houses and businesses in areas of north and east Whatcom County, and the eastern parts of Skagit County. Close to 2,000 homes became unlivable, in a region already struggling with affordable housing, and many of those affected were already housing insecure. Our team stepped in to help, especially for farmworkers and their families, and others where English is not a primary language.

North Sound ACH assisted with:

- Direct case management support to almost 50 families displaced by flooding.
- More than \$75,000 in emergency housing, and \$8,000 in related supplies such as food and transportation.
- Full-time staff support to the Whatcom Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for 12 weeks.

Shared Resources and Investment		
Item Type	Number Distributed	Value of Items Distributed (\$)
COVID-19 Care Kits	7,593	455,580
COVID-19 Tests (including rapid and mail in PCR)	54,730	538,314
Face Shields	19,128	12,433
Food Kits	4,483	224,150
Gowns	16,600	14,500
Hand Sanitizer (bottle)	119,750	237,628
Masks (KN95 & cloth)	477,903	1,125,167
Respirator Mask	9,920	19,840
Total	710,107	2,627,612

We acknowledge, with humility, that the land of the North Sound ACH region today is the territory of the People of the Salish Sea. Their presence is imbued in the waterways, shorelines, valleys, and mountains of the traditional homelands of the Coast Salish People, since time immemorial.

Our work is interwoven and inseparable from the lessons and guidance of our Tribal partners. We are influenced by the rich discussions with the eight North Sound tribes on their approaches to whole person health and the history of the medicine wheel — reminding us we are here to improve the health of communities, those especially impacted by disparities, who have not historically been considered in policy and implementation decisions.

- Our Tribal Alignment Committee provides updates to the North Sound ACH Board, fostering collaboration and communication between the tribal governments, Northwest Washington Indian Health Board, the North Sound ACH team, and our broader group of partner organizations.
- In the last year, 30% of our partners have adopted Land Acknowledgment statements — an increase of over 75% since 2020.

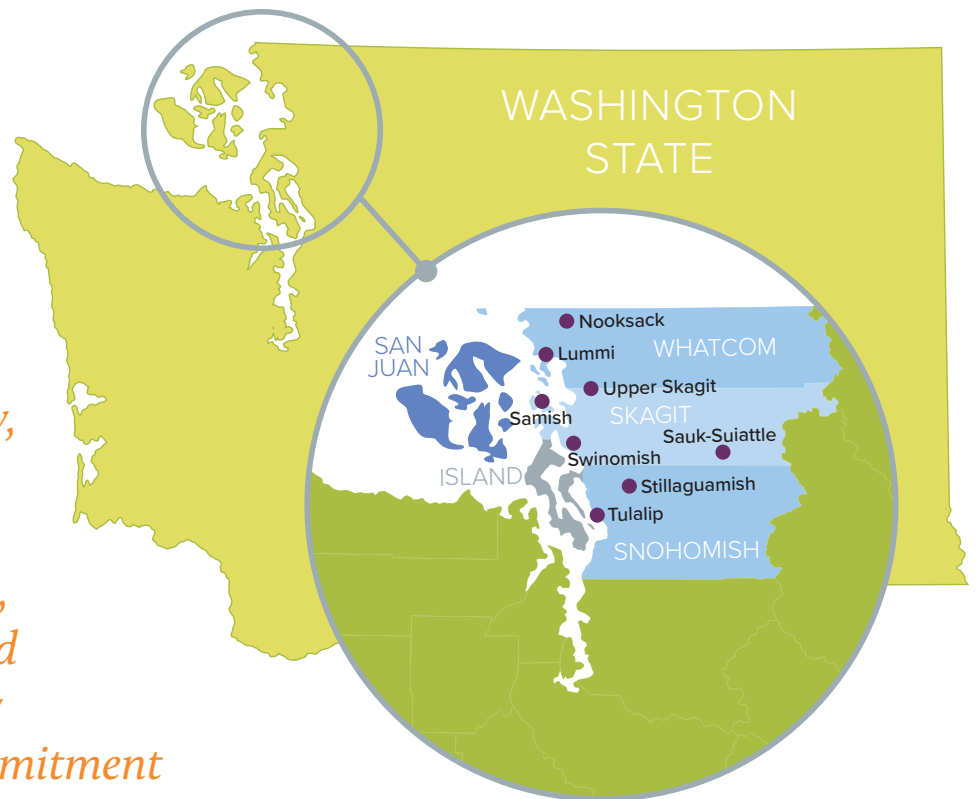
“Land acknowledgment process is just the beginning...”

— Quatz'tenaut - Candice Wilson



“Its not about the statement itself, but it’s about how we relate to one another in developing that work... we first have to learn about one another’s history, we have to really come to know each other as people and where our values align, and in that exploration and history where we can really understand where our commitment needs to be for the future.”

– Rachel Lucy



Tribal Partners

In the summer of 2021, PeaceHealth invited a number of elected officials and leaders from our region’s tribes to attend and speak at three different land acknowledgment events. This came after PeaceHealth embarked on an eight month journey to develop strong relationships, shared learning, and land acknowledgment.

Children of the Setting Sun Productions was there to capture these historic moments.



From left: Michael Vendiola (Swinomish), Swinomish Tribe Education Director; Michaela Vendiola (Walker River Paiute and Swinomish), North Sound ACH Tribal and Community Liaison; Beth Boyd (Blackfeet and Sioux), PeaceHealth Cancer Center Medical Social Worker/Care Manager; Dr. William Lombard, retired from PeaceHealth; Rachel Lucy, PeaceHealth Director of Community Health; Lona Johnson (Nooksack), Nooksack Tribe Health Department Director; Candice Wilson (Lummi), Lhaq'temish Foundation Executive Director; Darrell Hillaire (Lummi), Children of the Setting Sun Productions Executive Director.

Looking Forward

Co-design. Co-create. Co-lead.

Building a Regional Network – Together

In late summer 2021, North Sound ACH announced a new learning, advocacy, and action network, open to all community members and organizations across the region. Together with those who join, we will provide the assets, influence, and leadership for this Collaborative Action Network. Before the end of 2021 more than 30 partners had already joined the network, with more getting ready to join in 2022.

NETWORK COMMITMENTS

LEARN All community members and organizations interested in advancing equitable community well-being will start here. Come as you are – open mind and heart.

ACTION Partners who will help co-design a cohort of work around specific areas, such as Humane Housing, Youth & Emerging Leadership, Mobile Integrated Health, and Tribal & Indigenous Learning, among others.

LEAD Partners who have committed to the responsibility of leading a cohort of work, to build capacity, exercise influence, and innovate processes.

A SET OF SHARED BELIEFS

- All community members deserve to experience mental, social, physical, financial, and spiritual well-being.
- Inherited legacies of systemic racism have perpetuated trauma and exclusion, particularly among Indigenous populations and communities of color.
- Together we can create new legacies – and the conditions — that ensure a sense of belonging for all people who call this region home.
- We are accountable, to each other and to the well-being of future generations.

GUIDED BY THESE PRINCIPLES

- We honor Tribal sovereignty and learn from their experience in holistic, intergenerational approaches to well-being, healing, and stewardship.
- The work is place-based and centered around community and lived experience.
- We use targeted universalism as a framework, and reject zero sum approaches to advancing equitable well-being and addressing systemic racism.
- Belonging is both a vital condition and a practice. We endeavor to assure everyone can see themselves in the ongoing process of co-creating equitable well-being.

This network will be open to members across the region in 2022!

Look for an announcement in mid-Spring for an opportunity for you (individually or with your organization) to join the Collaborative Action Network!

North Sound ACH Team

Looking forward to evolving our work in 2022 and beyond. We thank each and every one of you for your commitment, connection, and most precious of all, your time.



December 2021: North Sound ACH staff at our year's end gathering.

2021 BOARD MEMBERS

Chair, Kim Williams	Eric Posey
Tempest Dawson	Chuck Prosper
Alessandra Durham	Cheryl Rasar
Shanon Hardie	Ario Salazar
Jacque Julien	Councilmember Marilyn Scott
Jennifer Johnson	Commissioner Janet St. Clair
Debbie Jones	Council Member Jamie Stephens
Council Member Lona Johnson	Daniel VanArsdale
Laurel Lee	Charissa Westergard
Petra Karpsteinova	
Councilman Nickolaus Lewis	



Zoom Board Meeting, a sign of the times.



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