



# Community Data Trust

## The Community Data Trust Facilitated by Elevate Health

**Health records chronicle clients' lives, tracking immunizations and allergies, childbirth and family histories, and they're a vital source of information for physicians and other providers.** These records – assessments, interventions and referrals – become even more significant when clients have multiple, often serious challenges related to their health, behavioral health and environment.

However, these health records, public records and other stores of data are fragmented; clinics, social services organizations, government agencies, community-based organizations and other data gatekeepers do share information as a standard practice. The result is data about individuals and the population is difficult to piece together. This is an obstacle for policymakers, community and care leaders who need to understand the intersection of these data points to positively affect community health.

We're building a sustainable Community Data Trust with the governance and capacity to ingest data from disparate sources to a single, secure, HIPAA-compliant and HISTRUST platform. Bringing multiple stores of data together from the members of the data trust creates a 360-degree composite of an individual's health, needs

and progress for improved care coordination. It also creates a snapshot in time of population health so that policymakers have the information they need to focus resources on overall community health in the region.

## Elevate Health: Services and Strategy

At Elevate Health, we innovate and collaborate to create purposeful health care reform in Washington state. Our mission is to build and drive community coalitions that transform health systems and advance whole-person health for all. As an Accountable Communities of Health (ACH) organization, we accomplish this work by addressing the core challenges of inequitable health systems and practices in our community, region and state. Our mission has three interrelated arms:

### WHOLE-PERSON HEALTH

Our Care Continuum Network and the Whole-Person Care Collaborative manage multiple care coordination services in partnership with health care providers and community organizations. With our partners, we help people overcome the negative effects of social determinants of health while connecting them with multiple modes of medical care. The result is whole-person health for our clients and a better-resourced health care system.



## INVESTMENT STRATEGY

OnePierce Community Resiliency Fund (OnePierce) is the investment arm of Elevate Health. With the support of funders, OnePierce distributes loans, grants and innovative funds to help community organizations provide whole-person health and bridge health equity gaps in Pierce County.

Our third arm is DATA STRATEGY & COMMUNITY HEALTH.

## The Community Data Trust

Over the last several years, Elevate Health has focused on building its capacity to transform the health care ecosystem in Pierce County. Working with partner organizations, we've assessed the community's care needs and identified gaps and silos within its landscape. By reallocating resources and removing gaps in the system we've been able to streamline care into a single coordination effort: the Care Continuum Network. We have also developed an investment strategy to help fund partner organizations and enrich our community. Now, we're focusing on the third segment of our ambitious plan: bringing disparate systems together in order to form a secure, comprehensive, and seamless data source that will help participating members of the data trust understand and collaborate on individual needs and create solutions to address community health.

### **We know that data systems can and must be better.**

Today, care coordination among multiple programs is made much more difficult by fragmented and months-old data. Collecting up-to-date data from multiple sources will give the members of the data trust significantly better tools to help their clients.

### **We're building a trusted, encompassing platform.**

Organizations use various systems – Excel spreadsheets, EPIC, and other tools – to collect and secure an individual's data. Our goal is to build a flexible, HIPAA- and HITRUST-compliant platform that will integrate and analyze different forms of data from multiple sources – including healthcare, economics, education, and labor, among others – so that participating organizations and policymakers can understand community needs

## A Broader, Deeper Look at Health

In thinking about a client's health, Elevate Health is interested not only in the medical care they receive, but also in their environment. We seek to understand the client's **social determinants of health (SDOH)** – factors that include access to food, employment and housing – because SDOH play a major role in a person's health and their ability to access health care.

Accordingly, the Community Data Trust will include not only healthcare organizations, but it will prioritize social service and community-based organizations that address issues such as homelessness, domestic violence and hunger – and other organizations that serve large groups of people, including emergency medical services, the criminal justice system, emergency housing services, education systems, and public housing – to name a few. By merging data from all these organizations, we hope to gain a broad, deep view of the well-being of our clients, to become even more responsive in addressing their needs, and to practice true whole-person health.

and coordinate solutions in real time. See sidebar on following page.

### **We're organizing a community-backed data trust.**

Elevate Health is convening regional partners and potential partners to determine what data to collect and share, and, after forming a governance board, how to oversee and protect it. To date, partners include Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Pierce County, Sea Mar Community Health Centers, Community Health Care, Pierce County Superior Court, and United Way of Pierce County. All of the behavioral health care providers we work with in our region are working with us to onboard, as well as several managed care organizations and payors.

**We will create a beneficial and agile new tool for community health.** When fully realized and well-populated with data, the data trust will allow us to identify and nimbly address not only the health challenges of individual clients, but also gaps in care within a ZIP code or region. This knowledge will be invaluable to decision-makers who create health-related policy and allocate funding and resources.

**We would welcome your participation.** The success of the Community Data Trust will depend upon the diversity of its partners and the valuable data they share. We welcome participants from across the region, including tribal councils, healthcare, social services, community-based organizations, emergency medical services, the criminal justice system, department of labor, economic development, emergency housing services, education systems, and public housing, to name a few. If your organization is interested joining the Community Data Trust, please contact us through the email address below.

## Looking Forward

It's an exciting, formative moment: In the next few months, the members of the Community Data Trust will determine the parameters and direction of their work. Their combined intelligence will inform and affect the social determinants of health in our region. We anticipate its evolution to include the integration of artificial intelligence – with predictive modelling and trendspotting – and for individuals to have full control and the ability to share their personal health information to inform population health and advance health equity. These advancements will have a significant, beneficial effect on individual, population and community health in Pierce County.

## Case Study: Trueblood and the Impact of the Community Data Trust

If someone is charged with a crime, they have the right to understand how the trial and court works. If there is a concern that they do not understand due to a mental illness or other disability, they will receive competency restoration services. These services consist of mental health treatment, basic civics, and restoration classes which are provided at a state hospital or other facilities. People receive these services until they are reevaluated and found competent. If they are found incompetent, the process of restoration continues, or their case may be dismissed.

In 2014, Disability Rights Washington (DRW) brought a class action lawsuit, Trueblood, against the Washington State Department of Social and Human Services (DSHS). Its class members represented people who waited weeks to months in jail to receive competency restoration services. In 2015, the court determined that DSHS must provide competency evaluations within 14 days and transfer people out of jail and into competency restoration services within 7 days. Washington state has paid over \$64 million in fines to date since the ruling for noncompliance.

In action, the Community Data Trust will be able to support emergency responders, law enforcement and the courts with a deeper view of an individual, flagging relevant information that pertains to medical risks, such as a heart condition, education level, or their mental health upon encounter. This would expediate the competency restoration services process, saving people from having to spend inordinate amounts of time in jail while saving the state money.

## For More Information

If you would like to learn more about the Data Strategy Trust or Elevate Health, please contact us.

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