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## CHARTER: Northwest Life Passages Coalition

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# NORTHWEST LIFE PASSAGES COALITION CHARTER

Approved May 2015; revised and approved March 2017.

## COALITION PURPOSE

The purpose of the Northwest Life Passages Coalition is to further the community vision articulated in the [Blueprint for Community Excellence at End of Life](#). A primary means of doing this will be to align and advance the *Blueprint* recommendations.

## BACKGROUND

In April 2014, the Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement (WAHA) convened a Task Force composed of health professionals and community leaders who were asked what it would take to transform Whatcom County into a center of excellence for all those with and impacted by serious life-threatening illness. The Task Force produced the *Blueprint for Community Excellence at End of Life*. The *Blueprint* calls for a Coalition to serve as the vehicle to realize the plan and work towards making Whatcom County a center of excellence in end of life care.

## PRINCIPLES

The following principles will serve as guideposts for the Coalition's work:

- Stay true to our purpose by furthering the *Blueprint* vision and advancing the recommendations.
- Seek a variety of voices to inform our work.
- Community, patient, family and caregiver needs will inform the implementation of a continuum of services for serious illness and end of life.
- The design and implementation of services will be informed by health and social service providers, along with non-provider community leaders.

## BLUEPRINT VISION

**Whatcom County is a community where death is recognized as a natural part of life**, where no one lives with untreated pain as they live with serious illness or approach life's end, where the entire spectrum of residents' chosen wishes for their care are known, respected, and honored.

People with chronic or serious illness, regardless of age, live their last months to their fullest, with pain and suffering alleviated, their fears and questions heard and addressed, and their relational, spiritual, and cultural needs met with loved ones around them.

Our community is one where family, friends and caregivers feel supported up to and following the death of a loved one.

A complete range of professional and volunteer services to support this vision is organized, easily accessible to all, and financially sustainable.

- Members represent their respective organizations, in addition to themselves as individuals; members will seek to clarify, communicate, and maintain organizational engagement.
- Coordinate with ongoing work in the community to promote alignment of efforts and avoid duplication or “siloeing” of services and programs.
- When Coalition members reference the Blueprint in funding requests, a collective voice should be invoked by noting how any specific project fits into the Blueprint as a whole.
- Employ a coordinated communication strategy that conveys the Coalition’s spirit of collaboration.

## PROCESS

WAHA Staff will convene monthly Coalition meetings; additional meetings of the whole group will be scheduled as needed. In addition, the Coalition will recommend workgroups and staffing as needed to accomplish the work.

## SCOPE

The Coalition will advance recommendations outlined in the *Blueprint* by engaging with stakeholder organizations to

- Ensure that key leadership groups know about the Blueprint
- Secure affirmation of the vision expressed in the Blueprint
- Invite participation using a “menu” of recommendations organized by the Blueprint pillars.

## ANNUAL WORKPLAN

A 12-month workplan will be created at the beginning of each year to guide and focus the Coalition’s work.

## MEMBERSHIP

The Coalition is committed to inclusivity and diversity and will therefore seek members from the following sectors:

- Medical Care – Primary care, specialty care, and hospital (administration, inpatient palliative care, outpatient care, and Hospice),
- Faith Communities
- Elder Services
- Social Services
- Higher Education
- Representatives of communities of color and/or non-English speaking populations
- Community Member(s) not affiliated with any organization or institution
- Caregiving Community

This Charter will be revisited and revised as needed every two years; membership will be expanded or adjusted as necessary to ensure a diverse representation of our communities.