Despite the challenges that our community of health care providers faced in 2021 navigating COVID-19, I was continually amazed by the dedication, resilience, and strength that you showed in the face of adversity. Even in the virtual setting, we seemed to draw strength from each other. Pursuit of our mission “to champion the health and well-being of children, adolescents, and families through advocacy, education and partnership” did not lessen. In fact, we became more focused on our core priorities, silencing much of the chatter. I could not be prouder and more honored to work with such a truly remarkable group.

As we, the WCAAP, advocated with our Governor and State Legislature on the most effective and respectful way to encourage vaccination—both COVID and catch-up vaccinations, we did not lose sight of our other priorities. We achieved Medicaid-Medicare payment parity, to improve access to care for all children and teens in our state. We continued to draw attention to the behavioral health crisis growing both in our state and nationally and were instrumental in the Governor’s mandate to bring kids back to school. We helped lead the discussion on Washington state value-based payment for pediatric transformation. We helped shape how the primary care medical home can foster a maternal-infant dyad during the first year of life and were partners to multiple organizations in supporting families’ social and financial well-being. Finally, within the backdrop of all of our work, we deepened our commitment to equity and continued our journey to become antiracist by focusing on our board’s personal growth within this space.

Our current priorities reflect the gaps and challenges you experience every day caring for children, teens and families. Not surprisingly, WCAAP members continue to rank Behavioral Health as their number one priority. Focusing on families’ Social Determinants of Health was our members’ number two priority. Vaccination and Advocacy have always been areas of strong focus for the WCAAP and will remain so in the foreseeable future. Increasing focus on equity and antiracism in every aspect of our everyday work is critical to our success, therefore, moving forward we are embedding within each of our priorities both an equity lens and parental involvement. Finally, keeping our membership healthy and active is not only near and dear to our hearts but is critical in supporting the kids of Washington state.

To our staff, board members, committees, and chapter members, I can only say a heartfelt thank you. Thank you for your dedication, your leadership, your generosity of time and talent, and most importantly, for your friendship. I would like to end by quoting myself, from an article I penned on provider burn out: “Despite medicine being ever changing, I would do it again in a heartbeat. We are part of a noble profession and we do make a difference. Never forget that.”
OUR VISION
We promote health and wellness for all children, adolescents, and families and advance equitable, evidence-based, collaborative approaches to pediatric care.

OUR MISSION
We champion the health and well-being of children, adolescents, and families through advocacy, education, and partnership.

CORE VALUES
- Equity
- Advocacy
- Collaboration
Together, we’re making it better.

Sacred Heart Children’s Hospital and Kadlec are proudly partnering in the Tri-Cities to make life better for kids needing specialty care close to home.

Childhood is a time for wonder, not worry. For curiosity and bumping up against obstacles. When those obstacles land kids in our care, we’re here to make it better—no matter the challenge.

Our curiosity drives us to find new and better treatments. And to make the care experience memorable for the right reasons. Because to us, it’s all about getting kids back to their natural state of wonder.

shmcchildren.org
2021 BY THE NUMBERS

OUR IMPACT

- **1180** WCAAP members in **116** towns and cities statewide
- **93** WCAAP members – including **23** residents – representing **26** legislative districts attended 2021 Advocacy Day and met with more than **60** legislators
- Interim meetings held in **20** legislative districts around the state
- **23** Legislative hearings in which WCAAP members provided testimony
- **1762** Messages to legislators during the legislative session
- More than **350** health care providers viewed **4** Equitable Care Webinars
- **18** Earned media spots across the state, speaking up on topics like COVID-19, vaccines, and kids’ behavioral health
- **2300** Adolescents reached by **10** clinics participating in our WA-CHIP adolescent immunizations learning collaborative
- **Up to 20%** reduction in missed opportunities to vaccinate in immunization learning collaborative clinics
- **1717** Caregivers screened for perinatal mood disorders by **7** clinics in our First Year Families learning collaborative
- **44** Providers, community partners, and state-level leaders participated on WCAAP’s First Year Families and Champions for Youth Steering Committees, helping achieve our collective goals for children and families
Member Value: Addressing Emerging Needs

WCAAP members were more engaged than ever in 2021. From attending our first ever virtual advocacy day and testifying in legislative hearings to participating in webinars and learning collaboratives, you spoke up and stepped in. Our committees (Health Care Transformation, Legislative, Early Childhood, Vaccines, Member Engagement, and Equity Work Group) remain robust and active.

**TIMELY, RELEVANT RESOURCES**
WCAAP is nimble, curating the most current and emergent information in today’s rapidly changing context, including:

- Education and a toolkit on support for adolescents in crisis
- An interactive series on COVID-19 vaccine communication tactics
- An action-focused toolkit to pursue equity in your sites of care
- A case-based learning bank to improve equity in your own clinical practice

**TRANSFORMATION**
WCAAP’s advocacy and partnership with the state Medicaid agency has resulted in the state’s commitment to value based payment supporting social determinants of health and behavioral health integration in primary care.
COLLABORATION
Our work as a convener and partner has created a broad-based alliance of maternal and early childhood stakeholders and has also formed active partnerships with school leaders at the Washington State PTA, OSPI, School Nurses Organization of Washington and local school nurses and superintendents.

RAISING OUR VOICES
While WCAAP members remain on the front lines in the community delivering quality care during a pandemic, WCAAP staff and leaders continue to engage with state health officials and policymakers to ensure children’s needs are not forgotten in COVID-19 responses.

LEADERSHIP
WCAAP’s Vaccine Committee has provided strong expertise and leadership as COVID-19 vaccines have rolled out for children and teens, and as efforts to get kids caught up on routine childhood vaccinations continue.

LOCAL IMPACT
WCAAP members have framed the public discussion on children and teens’ behavioral health, COVID-19, and vaccinations by publishing Op-Eds, and speaking with media outlets, local schools, and Washington State PTA chapters around the state.
Advancing Equity

The Equity Workgroup at WCAAP produced a robust equitable care toolkit to help pediatric providers advance their competency in equity, regardless of their baseline familiarity with this topic. In addition to the online publication of the Equitable Health Care Toolkit, WCAAP sponsored quarterly webinars led by local and national experts, highlighting each of the four major topics covered by the toolkit.

“Absolutely eye opening and forward-thinking discussions. I am so glad we had young doctors teaching us about race and health equity because not having the decades of practicing racist medicine they are more aware of what is wrong with our practices and more willing to challenge it. I am so invigorated by their talk and will always try my best to ask the questions now.

- Webinar Attendee
Washington Child Health Improvement Partnership

When we collaborate with partners who share our passion for child and family health, we are more effective and get more done. Our child health improvement partnership, WA-CHIP, is an umbrella structure to advance collaborative efforts to improve child health statewide. Through WA-CHIP we support practice improvements to make measurable changes at the clinic level and inform and drive advocacy to make changes at the state level.

Our current work under WA-CHIP falls into two areas: First Year Families, which focuses on early childhood and family well-being, and Champions for Youth, which focuses on school-age children and adolescents.
Seattle Children’s is a proud partner of the WCAAP. Thank you for being an advocate and champion for Washington’s healthcare providers, children and families.
Our focus on Washington’s youngest children begins with strengthening families and promoting early attachment. With support of the Perigee Fund, in 2020 we formed the First Year Families arm of WA-CHIP to impact the life course by supporting children and families in the earliest years of life.

STEERING COMMITTEE
Participants in the First Year Families Steering Committee include the Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians, The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, parent advocates, early childhood stakeholders (early intervention, child welfare), tribal representation, the University of Washington Perinatal Psychiatry department, libraries, amongst many others. The Steering Committee has harnessed its collective voices to advocate for inclusion of community health workers in Apple Health for children statewide.

LEARNING COLLABORATIVE
Through First Year Families, WCAAP, Seattle Children’s Hospital and Pediatrics Northwest supported seven clinics in Pierce and Yakima Counties to implement reliable perinatal mood disorder screening at well child visits in the first six months of life, provide parents in need with vetted resources and follow-up to support parents. A total of 1717 caregivers were screened, with 89% of parents found in need receiving rapid support.

FAMILY VOICE
Parent advocates are critical to the success of First Year Families. Our two parent advocates have young children and lived experience of difficulties interfacing with health care in their babies’ first years of life. They help shape and inform our state-level advocacy and health care redesign, and train clinics participating in the learning collaborative.
PROVIDERS SAID...

“”

It feels good to ask parents how they are doing, and it is gratifying when things improve for families. This is whole-person care, and it is affecting everyone in the home.

“”

It was uplifting and motivating to participate in the cohort and learn each month how everyone was advancing clinical work in their practice.

PARENTS SAID...

“”

I wouldn’t have this type of happiness if it weren’t for you.

“”

I need to be told that I’m a good mom and I’m doing this right.
Champions for Youth is the school-aged arm of WA-CHIP. Our Champions for Youth steering committee has been instrumental in a coordinated response to school-age children and adolescents’ rising needs during the pandemic.

The committee convenes 22 stakeholders representing the Office for the Superintendent of Public Instruction, School Nurses Organization of Washington, Public Health – Seattle & King County, Washington State Department of Health, the Health Care Authority, local school nurses, health plans and primary care pediatricians. Champions for Youth has been an important multi-sector table to advance child and youth well-being including: promoting catch-up in childhood and adolescent vaccine series, strategizing and disseminating parent and teen-facing information about the COVID-19 vaccine, understanding emergent behavioral health needs and advocating for increased behavioral health resources in schools and primary care.

When COVID-19 struck Washington, WA-CHIP’s adolescent immunizations learning collaborative became even more invaluable to support kids’ vaccine coverage. Now serving clinics statewide, our learning collaborative helped ten clinics to connect with families via reminder recall strategies, reaching 2300 adolescents who were due or overdue for vaccines and reducing missed opportunities to vaccinate children and teens by 7%, during times of significant understaffing and increased demands in clinics.

The Champions for Youth Committee has fostered a coordinated problem-solving approach to school health and vaccine access. Communication between school nurses and Washington AAP members has increased our shared understanding of school health for Washington state students, resulting in collaborative approaches to addressing barriers to health services access and sharing vital information and resources.

- Annie Hetzel, MSN, RN, NCSN
Mary Bridge Children's dedicated specialty pediatric care — from our level II pediatric trauma center and transport team to comprehensive outpatient care — helps keep your patients closer to home. Our board-certified pediatric experts are committed to partnering with you to give your patients the care they need, when and where they need it. Thank you for trusting your patients to our care.

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Legislative Advocacy

Strong member engagement has been the key to our successes, and we have forged foundational relationships with legislators that will allow us to make a lasting impact on child health and family well-being.

WCAAP continues to build our advocacy power with pediatric residents, providing an Advocacy 101 curriculum monthly during residents’ community clinic rotations and also supporting Resident Education and Advocacy for Child Health (REACH) pathway residents in advocacy projects. Twenty-three residents attended our annual Advocacy Day in January 2021 – smashing our previous record of 17 – and residents had a strong presence in WCAAP’s meetings with legislators in the interim.

Legislators trust WCAAP on issues that impact children and families and seek our counsel as they consider policies. WCAAP is represented on multiple state-sponsored committees including the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group and the work group’s associated subgroups on behavioral health rates, prenatal to 5 behavioral health, and behavioral health integration. We are also represented on the state’s Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 vaccine for school attendance and on our state’s Title XIX Advisory Board.
While the COVID-19 pandemic continued to wreak havoc on every facet of our lives, and while navigating our first virtual legislative session, WCAAP achieved historic, hard-fought wins for kids and families in the 2021 session, including:

- Raised the Medicaid rate to parity with Medicare for pediatric care
- Extended postpartum Medicaid coverage to one year
- Advanced access to infant mental health services on Apple Health
- Increased in Medicaid counseling rates for kids
- Increased capacity for partial hospitalization/intensive outpatient pilot programs
- Secured audio-only telehealth coverage
- Secured fixes to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Passed the Working Family Tax Credit
We are grateful!

WCAAP owes our success to the support and engagement of our members and our partners. You make it possible for us to champion the health and well-being of children, adolescents, and families through advocacy, education, and partnership.

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Rupin Thakkar
Amity Tucker
Michael Van Dyke
David Willis
Agnes Wong
Mary Ann Woodruff
YEAR ENDING 12/31/21
FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Grants $757,730 78%
Membership Dues $153,167 16%
Sponsorships, Contributions, Other $61,308 6%
Total Revenue $972,205

EXPENSES

Program Expenses $909,233 90%
Management & General $61,532 6%
Fundraising $34,562 3%
Total Expenses $1,005,327

Change in Net Assets ($33,122)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets $754,949
Liabilities and Net Assets
Liabilities $244,418
Net Assets $510,531
Total Liabilities and Net Assets $754,949

The Executive Director, CFO and Treasurer develop the annual budget informed by business planning with the executive committee and committee leadership. The board approves the annual budget and reviews a financial dashboard monthly. Any significant budget variances are discussed during quarterly board meetings. At year-end, any remaining grant funding is carried forward to the next year and any general operating surpluses go into reserves.