

Washington Association for Community Health

Purchasing News
JUNE 2026

Please Welcome our New Director of Finance



Perry Howell started as WACH's Director of Finance in December and brings experience working with Federally Qualified Health Centers, Critical Access Hospitals, and PPS hospitals. In his previous roles, Perry was actively involved in supply chain management.

As with all health care organizations, managing costs remains a priority due to increasingly tight margins. Perry will build on the excellent work that has already been accomplished and will focus on ensuring the Group Purchasing Program continues to provide maximum value to our members.

Over the next few months, Perry will be assessing the overall program. He looks forward to connecting with members to gather feedback on current opportunities for improvement, understand what is working well, and identify areas that need enhancement to help guide next steps.

If you have ideas or recommendations for new association-based centralized services or vendor partnerships, please share them. Additionally, if you have any urgent concerns or suggestions for improvement, reach out to Perry at: **phowell@wacommunityhealth.org** or *360-542-4401*

Introducing Vaya Workforce - A New Workforce Solution for Community Health Centers

CHCollective is proud to introduce Vaya Workforce, a new workforce solution available to CHCollective members to help community health centers get high-quality talent quickly with low program costs. Through this new offering, community health centers gain access to flexible staffing support across clinical and non-clinical roles, along with workforce management technology, reporting, and dedicated program guidance to better manage day-to-day operations.

Vaya helps reduce costs and administrative burden, improve visibility into staffing needs, and support more informed decisions with access to qualified talent across a wide range of service lines. **Learn more here**.

News Briefs



UPS adds Temporary Surcharge Fee to US Imports, Exports

Across seven UPS services, a $0.23 per-pound charge applies to shipments between the U.S. and most other countries until further notice.



Direct Relief Offers Free Monthly Webinars

In partnership with MAVEN Project, Direct Relief is offering webinars covering primary care, specialty care, and professional development topics. Designed for safety-net providers, these sessions are open to all health care professionals seeking continuing education. **Learn more here.**

Vendor Highlight

Angel Flight WEST

Angel Flight West delivers health and hope using donated flights to serve those with health care or other compelling human needs. In the air, Angel Flight West links volunteer pilots and commercial airlines with people whose non-emergency health needs require transportation to access care. On the ground, volunteer drivers take passengers to and from their departure and destination airports.

- Over 2,000 passengers served each year
- More than 4,000 flights flown each year (with more than 100,000 lifetime missions)
- Over $6 million in-kind donations each year plus thousands of hours volunteered
- **Learn more here**

Contact **Russell Stearns**, Director of Outreach if you have any questions.

Upcoming Conferences

TACHC Annual Conference October 12-14, 2026

Join community health center leaders, clinicians, and staff from across Texas for the 2026 TACHC Annual Conference, hosted this year in the heart of San Antonio's iconic Riverwalk. This signature event brings together the people and ideas shaping the future of community health.

This year's theme - Deep Roots, Bold Future: Advancing Care Together - celebrates the longstanding commitment of health centers to accessible, community-led care while embracing the innovation and transformation needed for the next era of health care. Attendees will explore how deep-rooted values and bold strategies can work together to strengthen Texas communities.

Learn More Here

Registration is now open for the 2026 CHCollective Purchasing Summit & Reverse Expo

Happening November 10-11, 2026, at the AC Hotel Nashville Downtown in Nashville, TN, this national event brings together community health center leaders, purchasing professionals, and industry partners for practical education, peer connection, and cost-saving opportunities focused on stronger operations and smarter purchasing.

Learn More Here