

## Kids gain chance to succeed as behavioral health care becomes school resource

Angela Allen was Monticello Middle School principal during the launch of a pilot project coordinated by the Cascade Pacific Action Alliance, the Accountable Community of Health in the south Puget Sound region. The project placed a registered nurse in the school to help students whose health needs were affecting their ability to learn.

Referencing school data, Allen identified students with the highest need, based on behavior, poor attendance, and low grades.

“While I’ve been here at Monticello there have been several things that have come up with the kids, just in the depth of what they’re coming to school with and the need for services,” said Angela, who has since transferred to a different school.

“The problems we identified that were really the ones that rose to the top were mental health needs.”

“This [pilot] has been the push that we needed to have that extra support to get all the services to kids that need them,” Angela said. “That piece has been just a blessing for Monticello and the kids that have had access to the extra support, be it dental, medical, [or] mental health.”

In its first year, the project served more than 60 students and the school reported improvement in attendance and disciplinary actions among participants. The ACH is leveraging lessons learned and working to spread the project to additional school districts, including providing behavioral health therapy in rural schools.

### Healthier Washington Linkages

Healthier Washington supports multi-sector engagement, empowering local communities to come together to address health. By using a collaborative regional approach, providers who are working to address an individual’s physical and mental health are connected to resources that can give support. **[Note: Pilot project supported with SIM funds.]**

### Talking points

- The ACHs provide the power to act locally, bringing together partners from multiple sectors to address and respond to regional health needs.
- The ACHs provide a local perspective to the Healthier Washington vision. ACHs are a critical link, bringing together diverse voices—from clinicians to community services.
- Strengthening the connections across the health care sector and communities is one step to transforming care. Another step is through investment in knowledge, training, and tools that delivers effective care where people are, when they need it.
- The state provides ACHs with fresh, readable and actionable data. This foundation, coupled with improved communication between systems, improves care for both individuals and entire communities.



Angela Allen

### Ready-to-use media/content

All stories have a PowerPoint slide and one-page handout. Email for assistance: [healthierwa@hca.wa.gov](mailto:healthierwa@hca.wa.gov)



Time 3:13



20+ photos



Julie Nye

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Time 2:17



Time 3:36



20+ photos

## Children address health needs early with nurse embedded in school

In 2015 Julie Nye began working in the Monticello Middle school in Longview where she helps connect students to physical and mental health care. A registered nurse, she also helps them get access to resources in their communities, such as food, clothing and shelter.

Her role at the school was part of a pilot project coordinated by the Cascade Pacific Action Alliance, the ACH in the south Puget Sound region. She focused on children with physical and behavioral health challenges and connected them with community-based intervention and treatment services.

“Youth in general, if they are not consistent in getting those well child checkups, making sure they have their

immunizations, making sure nutrition, physical activity, all those components of health are being addressed, their health is the first thing that can suffer,” Julie said. “Having the ability to have the care coordinator has been really important.”

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## Healthier Washington Linkages

A primary goal of Healthier Washington is to transform Washington’s health care system so that it delivers whole-person care, addressing the needs of the head and the body in a coordinated way. Treating the whole person (physical health and mental health) is a better way to help people get and stay healthy.

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