

PLANK 1 - COST AND QUALITY TRANSPARENCY

RESOLUTION 1.03:

SUPPORT THE WISCONSIN HEALTH INFORMATION ORGANIZATION

The Alliance believes the Wisconsin Health Information Organization (WHIO) is a game-changing asset that deserves the support of all stakeholders, including Wisconsin lawmakers and the state and federal government. Wisconsin payers, providers and purchasers have developed a data asset in WHIO that will significantly advance our ability to measure and improve health care value.

WHIO would benefit from having additional data contributors, including private and public sector purchasers (e.g., Medicare), pharmacy benefit managers and third party administrators. WHIO provides a strong foundation for the public-private sector alignment around market incentives to improve health care value and for providers themselves to identify where improvements in quality and efficiency are needed. The more robust the data, the more transformative the impact becomes.

While Wisconsin has made advances in the area of transparency through both public and private sector initiatives, there is still a long way to go toward realizing the goal of providing consumers with the information they need to compare and choose providers and hospitals. Involving employers and consumers in the design of transparency initiatives will help to ensure a more effective and user-friendly end product.

The Alliance encourages public and private sector champions of transparency to coordinate their efforts with WHIO rather than risk redundancy, inefficiency and public confusion. We urge decision makers to keep these considerations in mind as new ideas relating to cost and quality transparency emerge.