

Universal Health Care Commission

Ross Valore, Cost Board & Commissions Director, Washington State Health Care Authority

Mary Franzen, Coverage Strategies Manager, Washington State Health Care Authority

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What is universal health care?

- ▶ A single, unified system where all residents have access to health care regardless of income or employment status
 - ▶ Usually organized by country or region
 - ▶ Standardized payment model and rates
 - ▶ Uniform administrative processes
- ▶ May include a mix of public and private payers, providers, and care settings
 - ▶ Universal health care *may* be achieved through a single-payer model, but single-payer is not the only approach

Unified system models

- ▶ Single payer
 - ▶ Usually the national government
 - ▶ For example, in Canada, the government is the one payer
- ▶ Multi-payer
 - ▶ Often a mix of government and private payers
 - ▶ For example, Germany requires residents to purchase health insurance, with public and private options
- ▶ Many universal systems are funded by a mix of public funding and some form of patient cost-sharing
 - ▶ Cost sharing can include co-pays, deductibles, and premiums

Goals of a unified system

- ▶ Increase access to high-quality, affordable care for patients
- ▶ Control cost growth
- ▶ Reduce administrative burden for providers
- ▶ Reduce health disparities

Universal Health Care Commission

Universal Health Care Commission directive

- ▶ As directed by the Legislature (RCW 41.05.840), the Commission must:

Transitional
solutions

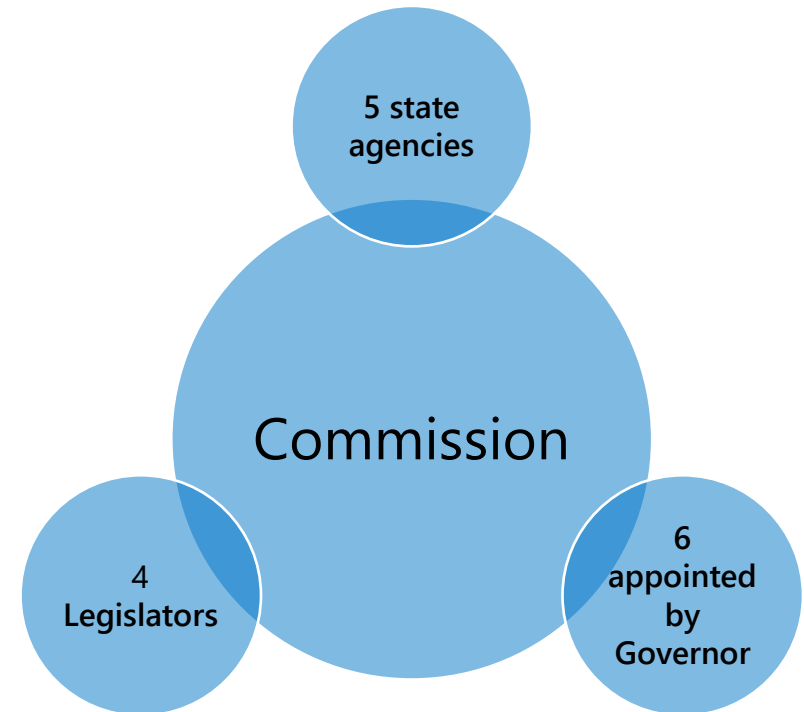
“...create immediate and impactful changes in the health care access and delivery system in Washington and to prepare the state for the creation of a health care system that provides coverage and access for all Washington residents through a unified financing system once the necessary federal authority has become available.”

Universal
system
design

Commission and committee expertise

The Commission's 15 members represent state agencies, the state legislature, and community voices.

Launched in 2023, the **Finance Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC)** provides financial expertise.



Consistent input

- ▶ The Commission hears from a wide range of subject matter experts on topics including:
 - ▶ Eligibility
 - ▶ Benefit design
 - ▶ Rural health care delivery
 - ▶ Cost containment mechanisms
 - ▶ Administrative simplification
 - ▶ Provider frustrations
 - ▶ State agency efforts
 - ▶ National efforts
 - ▶ Legislative activity
 - ▶ Health Care Cost Transparency Board benchmark data

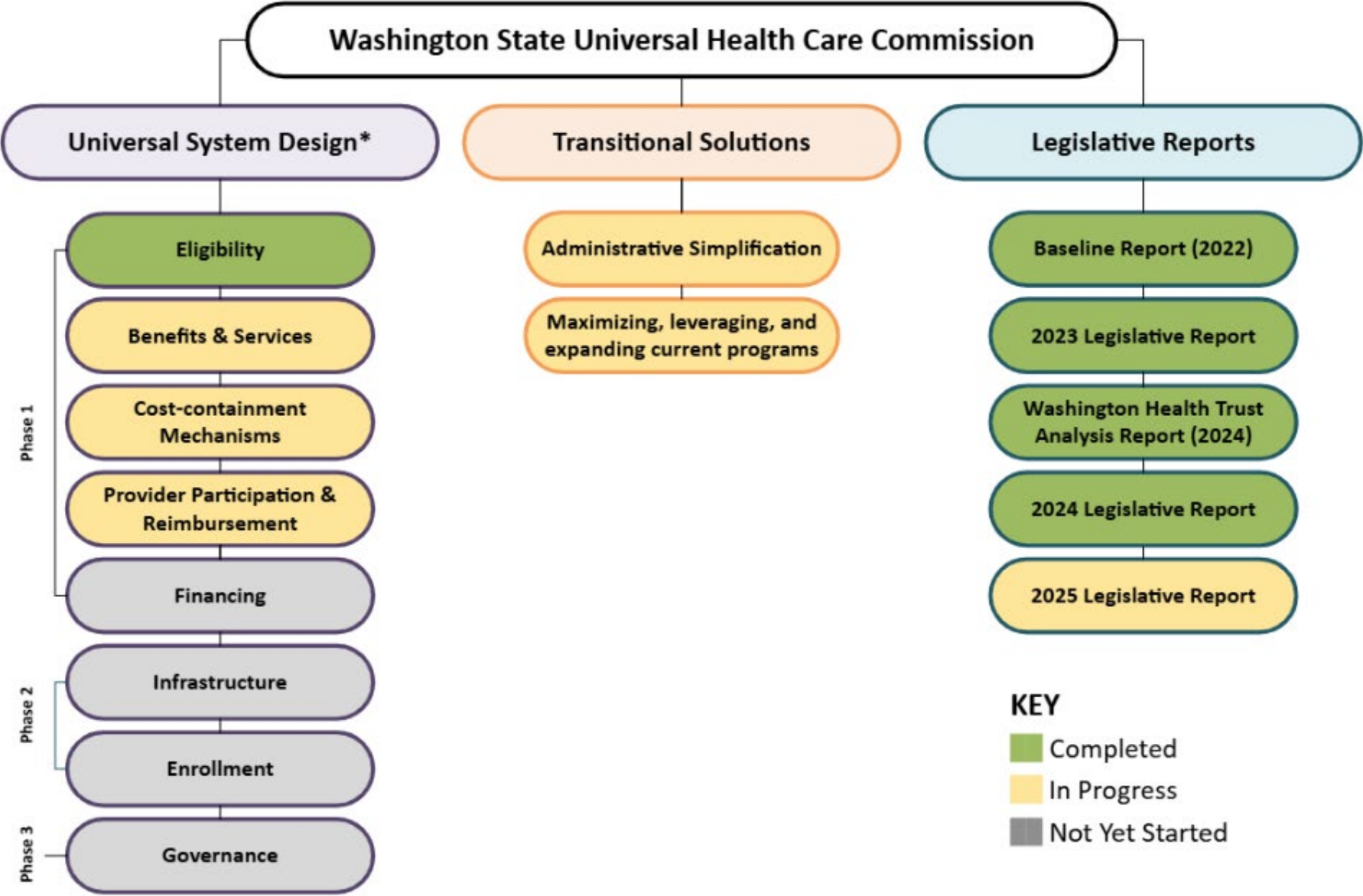
Consistent input from the public continues to be a cornerstone of the Commission's work.

Commission members welcome public comments at each meeting.

Milestone tracker

* Health care quality, health equity, and health disparities will be discussed and considered during each of the core universal system design components.

Tracker last updated
March 2025



Universal system design: eligibility

- ▶ The Commission maintains the goal of including all people in Washington in a unified financing system, while studying transitional eligibility solutions until federal authority is clear.
- ▶ The Commission and FTAC identified groups that could participate in an initial transition model in Washington:
 - ▶ Medicaid
 - ▶ Individual health plans
 - ▶ Fully insured group health plans (large and small)
 - ▶ All PEBB/SEBB plans
 - ▶ Uninsured

Universal system design: 2025 goals

- ▶ Complete analysis of benefits and services, then determine prioritization
 - ▶ Recent report models costs of providing three different benefit packages to likely population
- ▶ Develop set of recommendations for cost containment mechanisms
 - ▶ FTAC is evaluating mechanisms
- ▶ Develop set of recommendations for provider reimbursement and participation

Transitional solutions

- ▶ Recommendations to date include:
 - ▶ Support for reference-based pricing for PEBB/SEBB plans
 - ▶ Expanding coverage for people with certain immigration status
 - ▶ Integrated eligibility systems
 - ▶ Cost growth targets
 - ▶ Efforts to align public programs
- ▶ 2025 priorities:
 - ▶ Administrative simplification
 - ▶ Increasing provider participation in public programs

Commission and FTAC meetings

- ▶ All meetings are open to the public, with time designated for public comment
 - ▶ Public comments may also be submitted in writing
- ▶ Schedules, meeting materials, and recordings of past meetings are online
 - ▶ [Universal Health Care Commission
UniversalHCC@hca.wa.gov](mailto:UniversalHCC@hca.wa.gov)
 - ▶ [Finance Technical Advisory Committee
UniversalFTAC@hca.wa.gov](mailto:UniversalFTAC@hca.wa.gov)

Questions?



Contact

Ross Valore

ross.valore@hca.wa.gov

Mary Franzen

mary.franzen@hca.wa.gov