

## Community Health Plan of Washington Adds to Regional Manager Team Strengthening on the Ground Support and Community Connections

Gerardo Perez-Guerrero joins CHPW's North Central Regional Team to champion the whole health of members in Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Okanogan County

**SEATTLE – April 13, 2022 –** Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW), the Washington-headquartered Apple Health (Medicaid), Medicare and Individual & Family Plan managed care plan, has appointed Gerardo "Jerry" Perez-Guerrero to the role of Regional Manager, Regional Systems Integration, for the north central region of the state. As part of CHPW's regional manager team, CHPW staff who live and work in dedicated counties of the state, Perez-Guerrero plays a critical role alongside other regional managers in providing and advocating for members with on-the-ground, community level support.

In his role on CHPW's Regional Systems Integrations Team, Perez-Guerrero serves the unique health needs of CHPW members in the Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Okanogan counties. This includes acting as regional liaison between Community Health Centers and health providers, attending community events to understand local health concerns, and supporting behavioral health and physical health providers working together for CHPW's members' total health care needs. Perez-Guerrero's efforts support CHPW's growing north central and statewide regional manager teams working in communities to connect members with the resources and solutions they need to manage their whole health.

"Our regional managers at CHPW are a testament to the power of community and our commitment to our regional presence in the communities we serve. Working together as a team with community health partners, they are advocates for our members, their health journey, and their communities," said Connie Mom-Chhing, Senior Director of Regional Systems Integration of Community Health Plan of Washington. "As a resident of the north central area himself, Jerry brings the knowledge and passion to serve as a champion for our members in the counties. His experience addressing the health barriers facing his community and facilitating connections are a great addition to our growing team of regional leaders."

Perez-Guerrero brings to CHPW an in-depth knowledge of local resources, behavioral health providers, and health organizations and partners from his recent roles at the North Central Behavioral Health Organization and Beacon Health Options. As Community Engagement Coordinator for Beacon, Jerry and his colleagues organized funding and administrative oversight of the <a href="Triple Point of North Central Washington">Triple Point of North Central Washington</a>, a support program for LGBTQ+ youth in partnership with Children's Home Society, and the <a href="North Central Washington Naloxone Vending Machine Project">North Central Washington Naloxone Vending Machine Project</a> to combat high overdose rates in the area. He received his Master of Science in Law and Justice from Central Washington University and a bachelor's degree from Washington State University. Before entering health care, Jerry and his family had a 38-acre apple orchard outside of East Wenatchee for nearly 15 years.

"Having the opportunity to support the unique health needs of the community I call home by leveraging my past health care experience and community relationships is extremely rewarding. Working closely with local residents allows me to contribute to CHPW's ongoing community efforts. I am excited to be part of an amazing Regional Manager team that values the relationship between the Community Health Centers and health providers to better understand members' health concerns," said Perez-Guerrero.



Perez-Guerrero and his community roots further strengthen CHPW's North Central Regional Team and the organization's continued regional leadership growth across the state. CHPW's full team of regional managers assures members always have a community champion in their corner to connect them with local resources for basic needs and support their health concerns. As CHPW's "boots on the ground," regional managers also provide the organization with a deeper understanding of the health barriers and challenges unique to each community it serves.

To learn more about CHPW, visit chpw.org.

## **About CHPW**

Founded in 1992 by a network of community health centers (CHCs) in Washington State, Community Health Plan of Washington is a community-governed, not-for-profit health plan formed to help coordinate care and advocate for people who were not being served by traditional insurance companies. The mission of CHPW is to deliver accessible managed care services that meet the needs and improve the health of Washington communities and to make managed care participation beneficial for community-responsive providers. CHPW serves approximately 280,000 members through Medicaid (income-based program called Apple Health in WA) and Medicare (age and disability-based program) across the State. CHPW connects members to various physical, behavioral and social support services, and reinvests surpluses back into the community to help advance health equity and improve access to high quality care for all people. Its parent, Community Health Network of Washington, serves nearly one million individuals across Washington through its member federally qualified community health centers across the State of Washington, and now offers Individual & Family Plans on the Washington health exchange. To learn more, visit chpw.org or connect on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or LinkedIn.

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