



**PO Box 5332  
Kennewick, WA 99336**

[www.bfcha.org](http://www.bfcha.org)

August 30, 2023

Dear Colleague,

I am writing this with mixed feelings—my head knows it is the right thing to do at the right time for our community; my heart wishes it weren't so.

**The Benton-Franklin Community Health Alliance will cease operations by September 15, 2023. The non-profit organization will be dissolved.**

Our Executive Board members have worked with me for the last several months to understand where the Alliance might continue to provide value to the community. We've concluded, together, that much has changed in the 40 years since the seeds of the Alliance were planted with the Tri-Cities Cancer Center Task Force:

- Benton and Franklin Counties now boast a combined population of more than 310,000 people, nearly double what it was in 1993.
- Two of our hospitals are now for-profit entities and are no longer required to produce a Community Health Needs Assessment and Improvement Plan. One of the Alliance's primary responsibilities was to facilitate that process.
- The Legislature has re-invested in public health, giving our Health District more resources.
- Greater Health Now has become an important regional resource for working together, be it two counties or several.
- Our region has seen the development of two regional medical schools, two local residency programs, advanced nursing degree programs, and much more.
- Our members have found ways to work together much more effectively over time; something we believe will continue well into the future.

Speaking personally, these past six years have been some of the most interesting, engaging, and rewarding years of my life. Much credit for that goes to you for your enthusiasm, generosity of spirit, and hard work. I count myself as very fortunate for the experience. Thank you.

The next page will outline the disposition of the assets of the Alliance as required by law and provide contact information for your convenience.

Be safe. Be well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk F. Williamson".

Kirk F. Williamson, Program Manager  
Benton-Franklin Community Health Alliance  
[kfw@bfcha.org](mailto:kfw@bfcha.org)



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State and Federal laws require that all assets go to another 501c3 when a tax-exempt organization ceases to exist. By Resolution of the Executive Committee, all assets of the Alliance will go to Grace Clinic which will serve as Fiscal Sponsor for separate funds held by the Alliance for Youth Suicide Prevention Coalition and Oral Health Coalition. Additional Alliance money will be set aside to fund up to two years of the Patient Safety Coalition, which includes an agreement with PNNL.

The chart below shows contact information for committees and coalitions that have been supported and encouraged by the Alliance and its many partners:

Committee/ Collaboration	Meets when?	CONTACTS
Community of HOPE	1 <sup>st</sup> Tue 3:30pm	Annie Goodwin <a href="mailto:annieg@bfhd.wa.gov">annieg@bfhd.wa.gov</a>
Human Services Coalition	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed 8am	Kathie Kasper <a href="mailto:KKasper@mytcch.org">KKasper@mytcch.org</a>
Youth Suicide Prevention Coalition	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed 9:30am	Cameron Fordmeir <a href="mailto:cameronF@gcbh.org">cameronF@gcbh.org</a>
Health Equity and Access Team	1 <sup>st</sup> Fri 8:30am	Mark Brault <a href="mailto:markb@gracecliniconline.org">markb@gracecliniconline.org</a>
Behavioral Health Committee	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed 3pm	Courtney Armstrong <a href="mailto:Courtney.Armstrong@kadlec.org">Courtney.Armstrong@kadlec.org</a>
Food Access & Security Coalition	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 12:30pm	Honor Crawford <a href="mailto:Honor.Crawford@bfhd.wa.gov">Honor.Crawford@bfhd.wa.gov</a>
Safe Kids Coalition	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed 12pm	Daphne Gallegos <a href="mailto:daphne.gallegos@bfhd.wa.gov">daphne.gallegos@bfhd.wa.gov</a>
Safe & Healthy Aging	4 <sup>th</sup> Mon 3pm	Kelly Lewis <a href="mailto:Kellyl@bfhd.wa.gov">Kellyl@bfhd.wa.gov</a>
Oral Health Coalition	TBD	Lauren Spilles <a href="mailto:laurens@bfhd.wa.gov">laurens@bfhd.wa.gov</a>
Patient Safety Coalition	TBD	Garill Coles <a href="mailto:Garill.Coles@pnnl.gov">Garill.Coles@pnnl.gov</a>
Mental Health Wallet Cards	<a href="#">Cameron Fordmeir</a> has a large supply in English and Spanish.	
Twice weekly email forwards	Grace Clinic is taking responsibility for this valued resource. Please continue to use <a href="mailto:info@bfcha.org">info@bfcha.org</a> to submit items for distribution.	