

Dan Lessler, MD, MHA



Dan has served as the chief medical officer for the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) since 2013. He has dedicated his career to caring for those with complex health needs, while working to improve the quality and cost effectiveness of health care for all people.

He uses his experience as a clinician and leader in quality improvement to address health care reform for the 2.2 million Washington residents HCA serves under Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) and the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) Program.

With his leadership, HCA has made significant gains in ensuring the right care at the right time for Washington residents. He has led successful statewide efforts to reduce unnecessary emergency room visits; address the opioid public health crisis; and create innovative value-based purchasing strategies

such as bundled episodes of care and accountable care programs.

He also is helping lead the integration of physical and behavioral health for Apple Health clients statewide by 2020, ensuring a strong focus on community engagement and performance measurement as we move to a whole-person approach to health care.

Dr. Lessler worked in public hospital systems for more than two decades in San Francisco and in Seattle. During his residency in San Francisco's county hospital system, he gained a passion for serving people with complex health issues by considering their physical and behavioral health needs as well as their social needs such as housing, employment, and community connections. He strongly believes that case management should fit the patient's needs through an individual care plan.

During his 20 years as a primary care physician at Harborview Medical Center, Dr. Lessler served as senior associate medical director and helped found a community-based partnership in King County to improve coordination of medical care and social services for complex patients. In 2004, he served on the founding board of the Puget Sound Health Alliance, a nonprofit dedicated to improving health care quality and affordability in the Puget Sound region.

Dr. Lessler serves as a member of the Robert J. Bree Collaborative, which was created in 2011 to bring together public and private health care stakeholders to identify and promote ways to improve patient health outcomes, health care service quality, and health care affordability statewide.

He also serves on the Performance Measures Coordinating Committee, a legislatively created group that created the Statewide Common Measure set to provide a foundation for health care accountability and performance measurement.

Dr. Lessler holds a bachelor's degree in human biology and a medical degree from Stanford University, as well as a master's in health administration from the University of Washington.

A father of two adult sons, Dr. Lessler lives in Seattle with his wife.