

Jefferson County Health Alliance Support and Advocacy Guidelines

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The Jefferson County Health Alliance (Alliance) is a collaborative, cross-sector partnership committed to a connected, thriving Jefferson County, Colorado where health and opportunity are possible for all. The Alliance takes a community-based approach to how health and wellness are defined in Jefferson County throughout the lifespan. Per our Governance Charter, the Alliance works across multiple sectors to promote the following principles: Health, Equity, Social Determinants of Health and Community Conditions, Improving Systems, Multi-Sector Collaboration, Shared Vision, Purpose and Priorities, Shared Accountability, Respect and Opportunity.

The Alliance is committed to creating a safe, inclusive and affirmative environment that builds a culture of connection among the community members and organizations of Jefferson County. It recognizes that historical and institutional injustices are obstacles to a connected, thriving community. The Alliance is committed to continually assessing its own structures, environment, partnership and governance to address racism, bias and other conditions that lead to unfair advantage and disadvantage.

Based upon the mission and principles, the Alliance recognizes the necessity to have an approach to support the efforts of individual organizations and efforts within Jefferson County as well as across other areas of policy and systems change to fully address health in alignment with our principles.

Guidelines for Support

Support actions by the Alliance include statements of support or endorsements of grants, community efforts or the like. Any statement of support or endorsement needs to be reviewed for alignment with Alliance Purpose, Principles and Values as described in its Governance Charter.

Any Alliance supporter or champion can request a statement of support from the Alliance. These requests should be submitted to the Alliance executive leadership via Alliance staff. The decision to support can be made by the Alliance executive leadership with communication to Steering Committee about the support.

Guidelines for Advocacy

Advocacy is an active form of endorsement, where the Alliance takes action on a cause it endorses. Advocacy can include any of the following as they relate to changing policies and practices.

- Take the active lead on an issue to publicly champion it
- Identify gaps in services or resources and actively work to fill those gaps
- Provide public education on an issue and to actively support or oppose the issue

- Actively collaborate with other organizations that are taking the lead on an issue
- Actively support a public office forum that is open to all candidates to present their cases.

Like support statements, the advocacy matters must align with the Alliance purpose, principles and values. The Steering Committee approves all matters of advocacy by vote as outlined in the Governance Charter. When approval of an advocacy matter is not unanimous, disagreeing or abstaining board members will abide by the decision of the Steering Committee. A record of the vote outcome will be kept in the meeting minutes without documentation of each member's vote. The opportunity for an organization/individual to formally document dissent will be provided.

Any Alliance supporter or champion can submit recommendations for Alliance advocacy to a Steering Committee member or Alliance staff. Any advocacy topic must have at least one Alliance Steering Committee member to champion it. Once an advocacy topic is approved by the Steering Committee, the advocacy champion for the topic will provide a status at each board meeting.