



Greetings!

We are very excited to share our progress with you as we work toward achieving our goals to increase awareness of health advocacy, teach health advocacy skills and connect people to local resources. WASHAA has come such a long way due to your dedication and hard work in building this nonprofit organization. Our members, colleagues, volunteers, friends, and family are what make WASHAA thrive as an organization - here is what is new:

- We welcome Bill Thatcher, new Acting Executive Director!
- We are changing our Name (Advocates to Advocacy)!
- The Karen Griffith webinar is still available for viewing and CEU credit
- Save the Date! Upcoming Misdiagnosis Webinar with Io Dolka
- Our Volunteer Health Advocates Program is taking shape!
- Academic Interest Group Update
- Call for Volunteers for upcoming events and more!

We hope you will join us June 24th for our next Webinar featuring Io Dolka talking about Misdiagnosis and Patient Advocacy. Please "Save The Date," our WASHAA Annual Meeting is set for Friday, November 13, 2015.

Sincerely,

Robin Shapiro

Chair, WASHAA Board

Meet New WASHAA Leader Bill Thatcher

We are very pleased to announce that Bill Thatcher is joining WASHAA as Acting Executive Director.

"We are so fortunate to have Bill's non-profit and executive management experience

to help take WASHAA to the next level," said WASHAA Chair Robin Shapiro. "Bill's national patient safety relationships and passion for health advocacy will greatly benefit our organization." Bill was previously Executive Director of the Cautious Patient Foundation, a national patient safety organization which focuses on bringing patient safety training to local communities.



"I am excited to serve in this capacity and believe WASHAA has an important role to play in health advocacy here in Washington State and in the rest of the U.S." said Bill. "I am serving in a pro bono capacity this year because I fervently believe we are on the cutting edge of significant and impactful work for people when it comes to health success!"

To reach Bill, please contact him at billthatcher@mindspring.org or his WASHAA email: bill.thatcher@washaa.org.

WASHAA Is Changing Our Name!

We are changing our name to the Washington State Health Advocacy Association (formerly the Washington State Health Advocates Association), recognizing that Health Advocacy, not just support of advocates is part of our mission. Our [mission and vision](#) are still the same. We are creating on programs like the [Volunteer Health Advocates](#) Training Program, facilitating conversations among academic institutions in our state who are offering health advocacy curricula with our Academic Interest Group (AIG) and bringing you the latest on the emerging field of [health advocacy](#).

We need you more than ever! Do you want to contribute to this growing field? We need your help:

[Volunteer:](#)

- We are looking for Board Members, especially with experience in Finance or Medical Field
- Volunteer Coordinator: we are looking for someone to organize our volunteers and orient them to our organization
- Volunteers for our Annual Meeting November 13: we need several volunteers for the day of our Annual Meeting to be onsite to set up and break down the event

[Donate:](#)

- Your donation will help us maintain our systems and communications so that

we can continue to grow. Interested in learning more? Contact Robin Shapiro robin.shapiro@washaa.org or you can click "[Donate Now](#)" via our website.

- Shop at AmazonSmile and a percentage of your purchase will be donated to WASHAA. [Login to AmazonSmile.](#)

WASHAA Webinars A Hit!

WASHAA has launched a new educational Webinar series on current topics relevant to our community and professionals in the emerging field of health advocacy. We held our first webinar on March 30th, 2015. Our speaker, Karen Griffith from Compassion and Choices, presented on "[Washington State's Death with Dignity Act](#)" and did an excellent job helping participants understand the law, dispelling common myths around the law and describing when and how it may be used for individuals considering end of life options. The speaker received lots of positive feedback! If you are a member who was unable to attend, there is still a chance to watch the webinar. The video has been uploaded and is available for FREE to WASHAA members. **Members: please look for second email with links and password information or email us at info@washaa.org.**

Need Continuing education credits? They are still available for RNs and MSWs and are available until March 29, 2016. The cost is \$25 to receive 1 approved credit hour. Simply register and pay at the following [link](#), and then you will receive instructions on how to view. After viewing the webinar and completing a brief post-test, your CEU certificate will be immediately e-mailed to you.

Plan to attend our Upcoming Webinar with lo Dolka (former Executive Director of WASHAA): [Misdiagnosis & Patient Advocacy with lo Dolka](#)

Volunteer Health Advocate Training Program

A monthly Steering Committee to develop a training program for non-medical, non-family volunteers is making progress. We are currently in the process of developing the curriculum and identifying potential communities who would like to pilot our training program. Our Volunteer Health Advocate Training pilot project in Washington is featured as one of the "[Snapshots of Success](#)," with a truncated version of our video (under the [Better Care](#) tab) highlighted in the Quality Improvement Organization's website.

The training program will be piloted with organizations who:

- Already have volunteers and organizational support for volunteer training
- Are in Washington State
- Can provide feedback and evaluation on the program regularly
- Have a need to teach volunteers how to be a health advocate for community members

If you think you know of or belong to an organization which might be interested in piloting the curriculum or just want to learn more, please contact Robin Shapiro robin.shapiro@washaa.org.

Academic Interest Group (AIG) Progress

We are pleased to announce that several academic institutions met in April to discuss basic skills and competencies for health advocates and health advocacy curricula. WASHAA is serving as the coordinating organization to facilitate future discussions and work. Many academic institutions in our state are teaching skills by incorporating these concepts into curricula and/or certificate programs. The goals of the group include:

- Move the field of Patient Advocacy forward by establishing academic credentialing
- Network
 - Gain awareness of others' program offerings and the direction in which they are headed
 - Share best practices, teaching approaches, terminology, etc.
 - Avoid duplication / reinventing the wheel
 - Provide a forum for colleges & universities that normally compete to collaborate
- Establish common core process / content - for credibility (actual delivery might be customized)
 - Horizontal consistency / harmony in content across academic institutions
 - Vertical consistency across different job levels/roles e.g. patient advocate, supervisors, providers, executives
- Learn more about national level credentialing
- Share data (market research, outcome data, etc.)
- Raise awareness and successfully influence the external stakeholders of credentialing

Representatives are participating from:

- Clark College
- Community Colleges of Spokane
- Gonzaga University

- Highline College
- UW Bothell Nursing Program
- UW Professional & Continuing Education
- Whatcom Community College

For more information, contact Beth Droppert, RN at beth@ahadvocates.com.

Upcoming Event

WASHAA June 2015 Webinar

Featuring Io Dolka, Patient Advocate

Io Dolka, co-founder and former Executive Director of WASHAA, will help us understand misdiagnosis, what factors contribute to diagnostic error, how often it occurs, and what can be done about it. She weaves in moving personal stories on the impact of misdiagnosis and will share helpful tools and resources for both patients and clinicians to help advocate for best practices on this important issue. Please email info@washaa.org with questions or to request more information.



Save the Date: June 24th @ 10am!

Look for more information within the next few weeks!

Become a WASHAA Member

Join the 1st state level patient advocacy organization in the U.S. and be a health care pioneer!

SIGN UP TODAY!

See what's happening on our social sites:



Contact WASHAA via [E-mail](#) or Visit Our [Website](#)