

Nurse Case Management in Whatcom County



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Curry TB Center Nursing Workshop



WHATCOM COUNTY
**HEALTH AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICES**



Whatcom County



- ❖ **Population 228,800**
- ❖ Large agricultural sector, spans Mt. Baker - Snoqualmie National Forest, iconic Mt. Baker
- ❖ Sizeable ethnic Russian, Ukrainian, Punjabi, Mexican, Central American, & Filipino populations
- ❖ Home of WWU University with active International student programs
- ❖ On I-5 corridor between Seattle & Vancouver BC with high TB rates

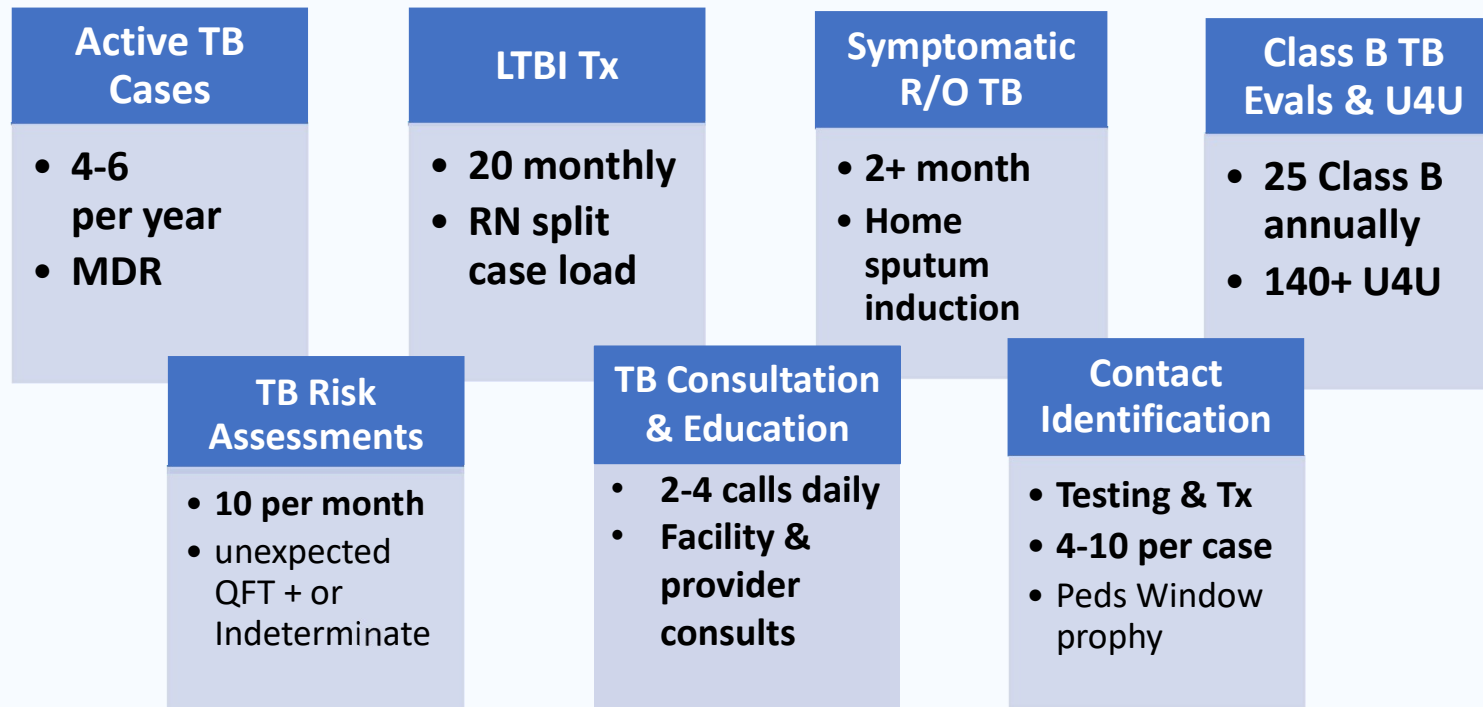


TB Program Overview



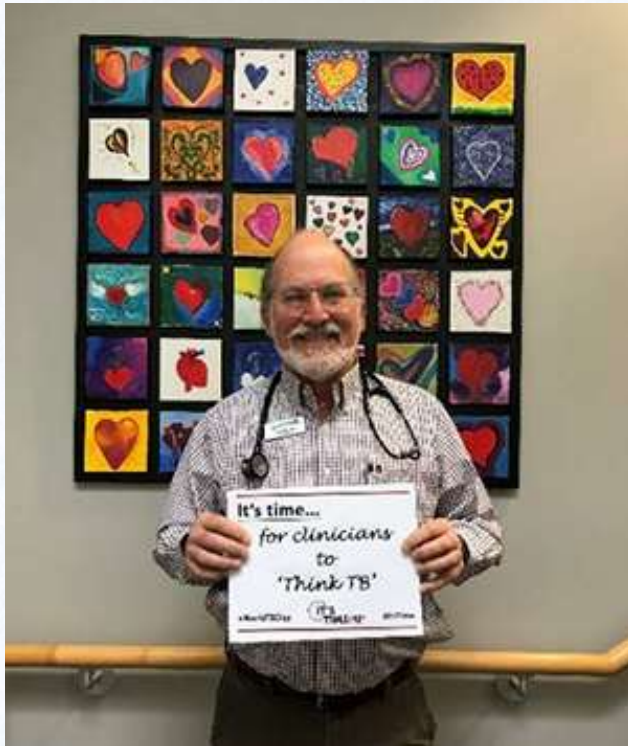
Whatcom County TB Program

2 FTE TB Nurses – current case load = 42

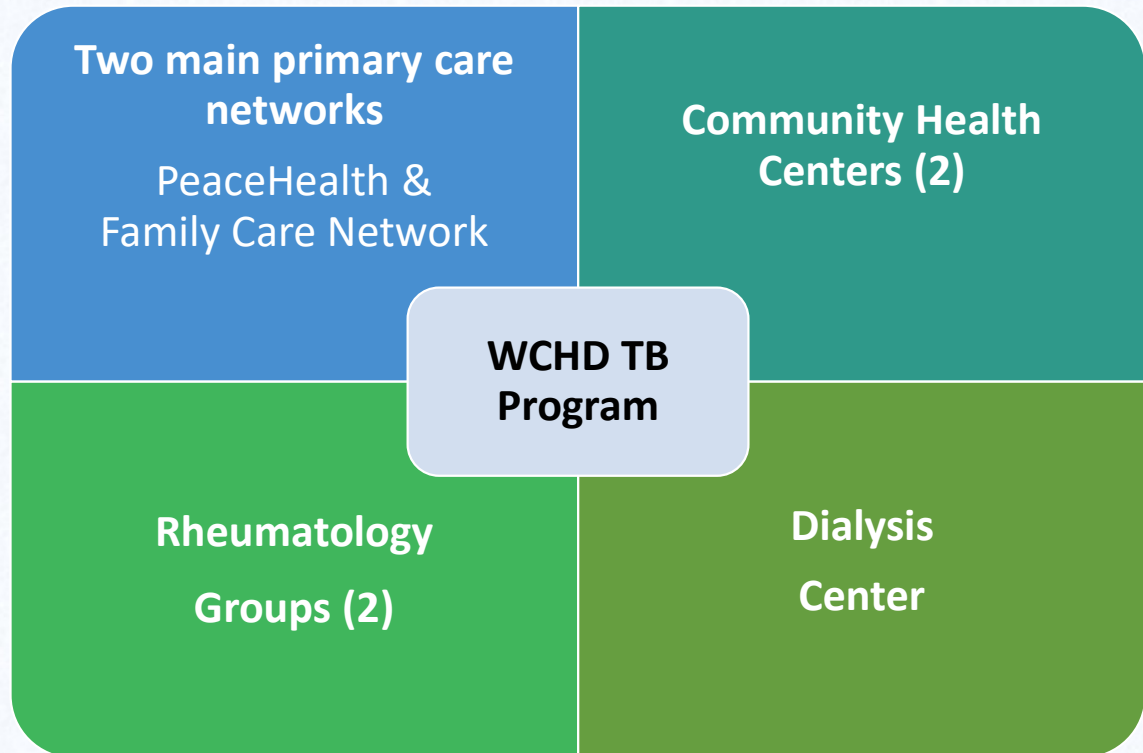


Strong Legacy of Support for TB Program

Board of Health supports TB nurses



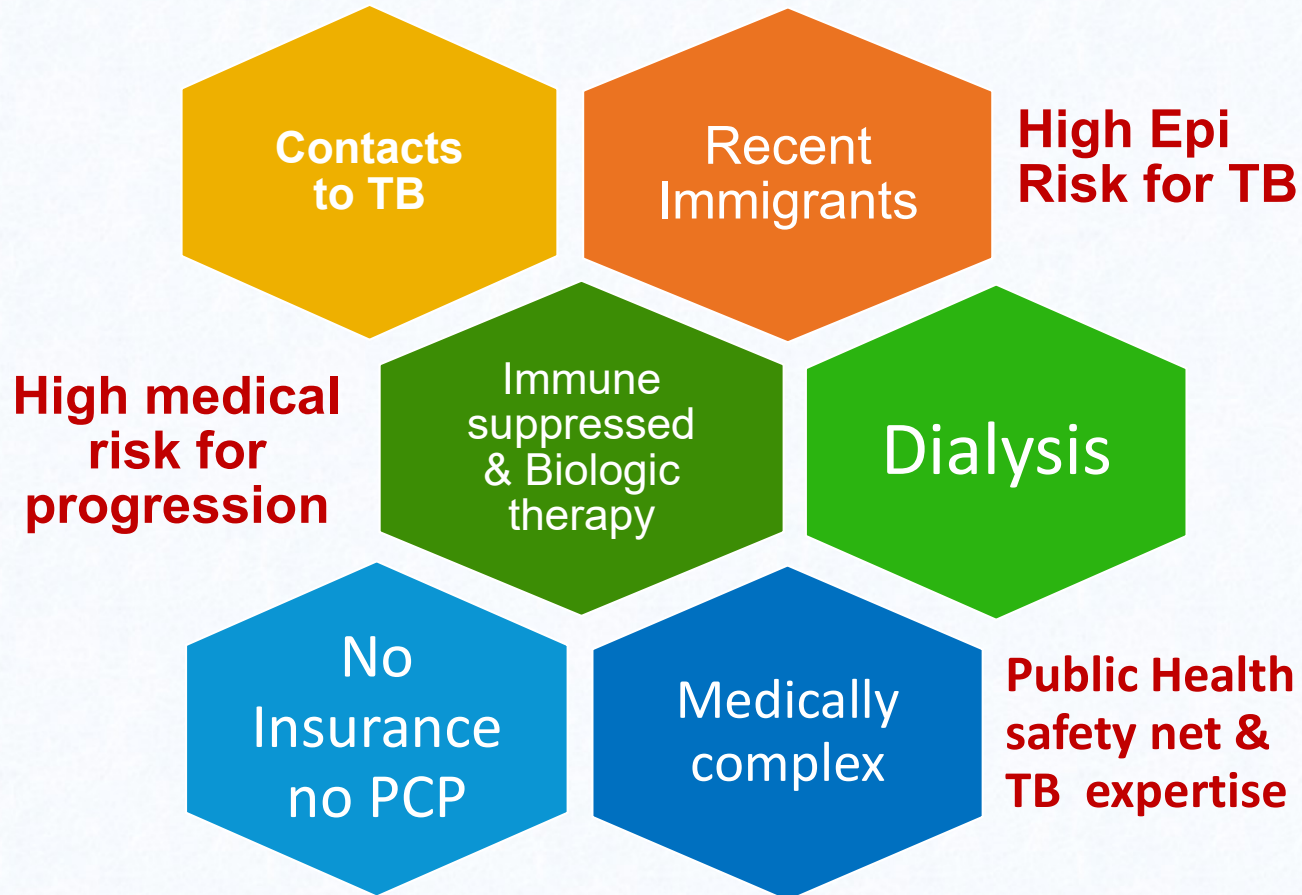
Dr. Stern 2019 CDC TB Elimination Champion



Sweet spot of manageable number of practices & stable partners



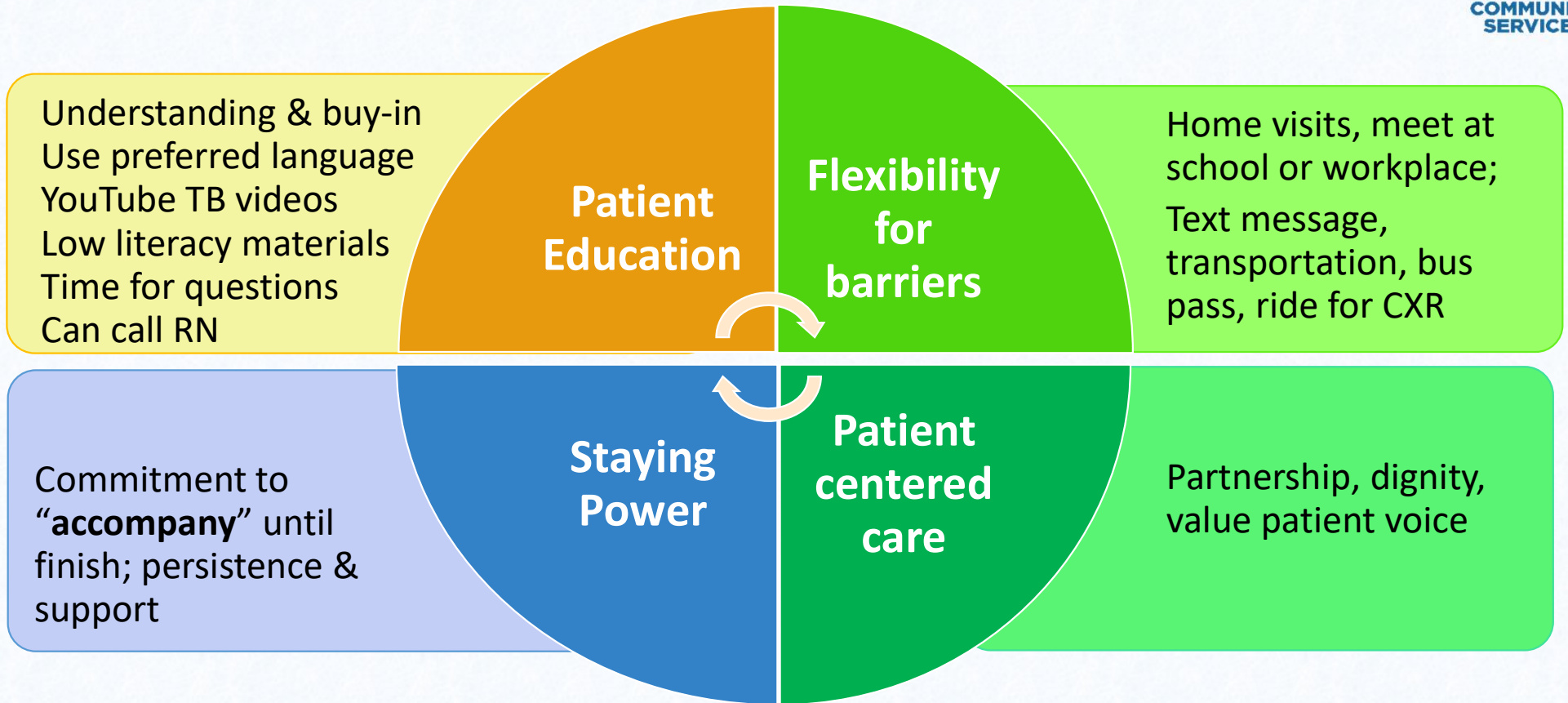
LTBI Referral Criteria After QI Project



TB Nurse Case Management Expertise in Action



Nurse Superpowers



Dr. Paul Farmer “Practice Accompaniment”



Case Presentation

Class B

- 70-year-old female from SE Asia
- Class B, sputum AFB & Cultures neg, QFT + CXR stable

LTBI Tx

- Started 4R LTBI treatment. Family reported tolerating ok
- Unable to come in for R/F, RN made HV. Learned she was sick with upset stomach/nausea entire 1st month. Patient without phone access & family did not call us
- RN used Language line requesting her dialect & her eyes lit up like she was a young girl again!

RN Management

- Switched to Rifabutin; after 2 weeks developed full body pruritis – could not sleep, went to clinic & given Vistaril - not effective
- TB MD Started H1 & H2 blockers (cetirizine & famotidine)
- RN called & asked to speak with patient instead of family member to check progress
- Never fully resolved but she was determined to complete treatment!

