



Executive Director Report

November 2022

By Sharon Becker, Executive Director, November 2, 2022

Administration

Open Enrollment and Rate Notices – Open enrollment for WSHIP enrollees begins this month. This is the period each fall when enrollees may switch plans for coverage that will begin January 1. Notices to enrollees include WSHIP’s 2023 premium rates, along with information about coverage alternatives available from the Washington Healthplanfinder and private market. Medicare enrollees were also reminded about the federal law change that now allows enrollees with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) to enroll in a Medicare Advantage Plan.

Medicare Advantage Plan Analysis – Leif Associates has completed their yearly analysis of Medicare Advantage Plans in order to determine counties with “reasonable choice” for 2023. Liz will present the results of this year’s analysis at the Board meeting.

Express Scripts (ESI) Account Team – ESI’s Account Executive for WSHIP has recently changed. The new ESI Account Executive is Charles Yuk. Charles and other members of the ESI account team will be presenting WSHIP’s yearly pharmacy report at the Board meeting.

Board

Governor-Appointed Board Opening – The large employer representative position on the WSHIP Board is still in need of applications. If you know of anyone who may be interested in applying, please ask them to contact me or Ambar Algera, Director Boards & Commissions at the Governor’s office, at ambar.algera@gov.wa.gov

Washington State Government

November 2022 Election & 2023 Legislative Session – November election results will determine who will fill all 98 of Washington State’s 98 house seats and 24 of its 49 senate seats. Emerging areas of legislative interest for the 2023 session include the health care workforce shortage, behavioral health, substance abuse, health care costs, and social determinants of health.

Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) – The OIC’s actuarial study report on Medicare Supplemental plans is due to the Legislature on November 15. It will *“assess options for enhancing consumer protections, expanding access to coverage, and accompanying regulations regarding Medicare supplemental insurance.”*

OIC emergency orders on COVID-19 related insurance coverage expired on October 31, 2022.

Section 1332 Waiver Application – WSHIP is continuing to monitor for any updates on the Section 1332 Waiver Application submitted by WA State in May 2022. If approved, the federal waiver will allow all WA residents regardless of immigration status to enroll in health and dental coverage through the Washington Healthplanfinder starting in 2024.

Universal Health Care Commission – On October 13, the Commission met to adopt its final report to the Legislature and to review the draft charter for the new Financial Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC).

The Commission's new Advisory Committee on Primary Care met September 28 to begin development of recommendations to achieve the state's 12% primary care spending target.

State of Reform Conference

The annual WA State of Reform Health Policy Conference is scheduled for January 5, 2023. This year the conference will be in-person only at the Westin in Seattle.