



Executive Director Report

January 2018

By Sharon Becker, Executive Director, January 3, 2018

Administration

Enrollee Communications and Open Enrollment – WSHIP’s open enrollment period for 2018 concluded on December 15, 2017. Enrollee communications included information about how to access other options for coverage. Also included were reminders about the discontinuation of the WSHIP Standard Plan and how to switch to a WSHIP PPO plan (or other coverage). BML will provide an update on enrollment for 2018 at the January Board meeting; however, the full extent of changes for 2018 will not be known until the end of January when the grace period for premium payment expires.

Board

Governor Appointments – The Governor appointment for WSHIP’s small business Board position is still pending. No applications have been received to date. I have been in contact with the Governor’s Board Appointments office and have been advised they are working to fill this vacancy as quickly as possible.

Washington State Government – Legislative Session

2018 Legislative Session – The Legislature will convene for a Regular Session on January 8, 2018. This is a short session that is scheduled to end on or before March 8, 2018.

OIC Reinsurance Bill – Reinsurance legislation requested by the Insurance Commissioner was pre-filed on December 29 (SB 6062) and January 3 (HB 2355) to establish an individual health insurance market claims-based reinsurance program. I am in the process of reviewing this bill. AnnaLisa will present information about the OIC’s Market Stability Project and reinsurance bill at our upcoming Board meeting.

Some key points:

- Implementation of the program is contingent on approval of a federal 1332 waiver application.
- WSHIP is directed to operate the program; it must be separate and distinct from the WSHIP high risk pool.
- Funding for the program is from assessments on covered lives under an individual or group health benefit plan, and federal pass-through funding received through a state innovation waiver.
- Carriers eligible for reinsurance payments are those who are offering non-grandfathered individual health plans.

Washington Health Benefit Exchange (HBE)

2018 Open Enrollment Update – The HBE reports that 230,000 customers selected health plans through Washington Healthplanfinder by the December 15 deadline for January 1, 2018 coverage. This represents a 35% increase over the same point in time last year.

Federal Administration

Repeal of Individual Mandate – The tax bill that was signed into law by President Trump on December 22, 2017 repeals the individual mandate beginning in 2019.