



Executive Director Report

March 2018

By Sharon Becker, Executive Director, March 8, 2018

Administration

2019 Assessment Projections – Notification of WSHIP’s 2019 Assessment Projections will be sent to member plans next week. We are currently anticipating total CY 2019 assessments of \$24 million assuming there is no new enrollment in WSHIP’s non-Medicare plans. These projections are based on current market conditions (i.e., individual health plans are offered in all counties in Washington State; therefore, WSHIP non-Medicare plans are closed to new enrollment). If there are bare counties in 2019, individuals residing in those counties will be eligible for WSHIP and assessment projections will change.

WSHIP Vendor Meeting – A half-day all-vendor meeting will be held in March to provide an opportunity for WSHIP’s administrator, actuary, pharmacy benefit manager, and provider network manager to discuss the current market environment, their roles and needs related to bare county preparedness, and to develop plans for any new requirements or approaches for 2019.

Board

Election Nomination Process – The election process for Board member positions 2, 7, 9 and 10 is underway. All incumbents have been nominated by their respective member plans. The Notice of Elections and Request for Nominations was sent to eligible member plans on March 5; additional nominations are open until March 30, 2018.

Governor Appointments – The Governor appointment for WSHIP’s small business Board position is still pending. No applications have been received to date. The Governor’s Board Appointments office is continuing to work to fill this position as quickly as possible.

Washington State Government – 2018 Legislative Session

Market Stabilization Bills – A number of bills were introduced this session related to market stabilization. They included bills for a reinsurance program, bare county solutions, an individual mandate, and public options. The session ends March 8. As of the date/time of this report, the following bill was passed:

ESHB 2408 – This bill requires at least one carrier in an insurance holding company system to offer in the Exchange a silver and gold qualified health plan (QHP) in any county in which any carrier in that insurance holding company offers a health plan approved by the School Employees’ Benefits Board (SEBB) or Public Employees’ Benefits Board (PEBB) beginning January 1, 2020. It also, until December 31, 2019, makes coverage in WSHIP more affordable to persons residing in counties where no private insurance is available by reducing WSHIP premiums based on income.

Washington Health Benefit Exchange (HBE)

On January 22, 2018 the WSHIP Executive Committee and I met with Pam MacEwan and Molly Voris at the HBE, along with Jane Beyer and AnnaLisa Gellermann at the OIC, to discuss market stabilization.

Office of Insurance Commissioner (OIC)

Geographic Rating Areas – The Insurance Commissioner has issued a proposed rule that will revise the current geographic rating areas for individual and small-group health plans to more accurately reflect the current risk pool. The proposed rule increases the number of geographic rating areas from 5 to 9. A public hearing on the proposed rule is scheduled for March 13, 2018.